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James Madison President of the United States of America,

To all who shall see these presents Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, integrity and abilities of David Holmes of Virginia I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint him Governor in and over the Miſsiſsippi Territory; and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties of that Office according to law; and to have and to hold the said office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining for the term of three years from the day of the date hereof, unless the President of the United States for the time being should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine this commiſsion.

In Testimony Whereof I have caused these letters to be made patent

and the Seal of the United St
to be hereunto affixed.

Seal

Given under my hand at the City of Washington the seventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty third.

James Madison

By the President

R. Smith
Secretary of State

United States of America ss.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber chief Justice of the United States David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory and made oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his said Office of Governor of the Mississippi Territory, according to the best of his abilities and understanding.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington this ninth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and nine.

J Marshall
Ch. Jus. of the U. S.

From the Governor to the House of Representati

Gentlemen,

You have been convened at this period for the purpose of affording you an opportunity to exercise the power with which you are invested by the Ordinance for the Government of this Territory to nominate ten persons qualified to be members of the Legislative Council in order that the President of the United States may select therefrom the number requisite to form this branch of the Territorial Legislature. The prosperity of free government depending in a great degree upon the faithful discharge of trusts by those whom the people have honoured with their confidence, I cannot entertain a doubt but that you will be governed in performing this important duty by the sole view of promoting the general good.

Washington
July 3rd 1809.

David Holmes

From the Governor to the House of Representatives

Fellow citizens of the House of Representatives,

The reception with which you have been pleased to honor me by your respectful addreſs upon my arrival in the character of Chief Magistrate of this Territory commands my grateful acknowledgements. To merit eventually, in your opinions and that of your constituents, this mark of attention and civility will be to me a source of infinite satisfaction. I have always Fellow-citizens professed to be a republican; by that I mean a friend to free government, formed and administered by the authority of the people, and to the supremacy of laws emanating from the same source. That I shall commit many errors in the course of my public conduct cannot be doubted; but I am emboldened to say they will not be errors of intention, and will therefore rely with confidence upon the indulgence of a generous and indulgent people.

Accept gentlemen my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

Washington
July 4. 1809. } David Holmes

General Orders.

Head Quarters Town of Washington,
July 6. 1809.

The Commander in Chief pursuant to instructions from the President of the United States directs that the detachment of three hundred and thirty five men including officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, detailed conformably to a General Order of the 7th of

December 1808 - be no longer held in readiness for actual service. He has it also in charge to present the thanks of the President to those Corps whose patriotism induced them to volunteer their services to the United States; and he avails himself of this occasion to assure the militia of the Territory of his unlimited confidence and high respect.

David Holmes
Commander in Chief

From the Governor to Col. Caller.

Head Quarters, Town of Washington
July 7. 1809.

Sir

You are requested to communicate the inclosed General Order to the respective Corps under your command, and to forward to the Brigade Inspector at this place, a complete return of your Regiment.

I have the honor to be
Sir Yr. Ob.
David Holmes
Commander in Chief

Lt Col. Commdt.
James Caller
of the 3rd Regt.
Militia M.T.

From the Governor to the Attorney General

Town of Washington
July 11. 1809.

Sir

A copy of an indictment against William Henderson for forgery, found a true bill, by the Grand Jury of Adams County has been lodged with me in order that a demand may be made upon the Executive of the State of Tenneſsee (under the act of Congreſs respecting fugitives from Justice) to have the body of said Henderson secured and delivered to the proper authority of this Territory that he may receive his trial by the Tribunal competent thereto. Will you be pleased to inform me whether you are clearly of an opinion that the law above mentioned is applicable to this Territory and vests the authority of making the demand, in the Governor. Also, whether the circumstances of this case, wherein it appears you were the prosecuting Attorney, are such that the advancement of general justice requires an interposition of this nature; and whether any further proceedings, except the finding by the Grand Jury, has been had against the said Henderson.

I am &c

Seth Lewis esqr
Attorney General

David Holmes

From the Governor, to the Executive of the
State of Tenneſsee.

Town of Washington, Miſsiſsippi
Territory, July 19. 1809.

Sir,

Having received information that a certain William T. Henderson, against whom an indictment for feloniously counterfeiting the signature of John Brown was found (a true bill) by the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court holden for the County of Adams in this Territory, hath fled to the State of Tenneſsee with the view to evade the law and the ultimate consequences of the prosecution thus instituted, and that he now is within the State; I have therefore to request that your Excellency will in conformity with the act of Congreſs respecting fugitives from Justice, take immediate steps to have the body of said Henderson secured in order that he may be surrendered up to the proper authority of this Territory, and receive his trial for the offence with which he is charged, by the tribunal competent thereto. Herewith your Excellency will receive an authenticated copy of the Indictment, which will be considered as sufficient evidence by you to have the offender arrested. I am perfectly satisfied of your Excellency's disposition to adopt the means best calculated to accomplish this; and from the respect you must entertain for the authority of the laws of our country, and for the protection of public justice - so eſsential to the safety of civil society.

I tender to your Excellency the assurances of my respect and consideration.

David Holmes
Governor of the M. Territory.

From the Governor to Col. Richards

Town of Washington Augt. 26. 1809

Sir,

Your brother informed me that there was a report circulating in your neighbourhood that an Indian had been killed by a white man near Amite County on the lands commonly called the new purchase — I have to request that you will endeavour to ascertain the fact, and as far as you can, the circumstances attending the transaction, and to forward to me the result of your enquiries by the first opportunity. Your attention to this business will oblige,

Col. W. R. Richards

Sir,
Yr. Obt.
David Holmes

P.S.
I will thank you to procure the name and description of the person who is said to have committed this offence.

Head Quarters, Town of Washing
August 28. 1809.

General Orders.

It is ordered that the Regimental Musters of the militia of the Territory be held o the days, and at the places herein mentioned.

The 4th Regiment will muster on the first thursday in October next at Gibson Port. The Second Regiment on the monday following at Greenville.

The first Regiment on the second thursday of October next at the Town of Washington.

The fifth Regiment on the monday following being the sixteenth day of the month, at Percy's Plantation.

The sixth Regiment on thursday the nineteenth day of October next at Amite Court-House.

The third Regiment will muster on the third saturday of October next, at the place where the last Regimental muster was held.

David Holmes
Commander in Chief

Head Quarters, Town of
Washington, Aug. 28. 1809

Sir

I enclose to you a General order which you will communicate without delay to the Commandants of the respective Regiments. In a conversation a few days ago with Col. Hoggatt he informed me that he had not been furnished with a copy of the General order iſsued the 6th of July last, and that he knew nothing of its contents. I will thank you to explain how this circumstance happened.

I am Sir,
Y. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes
Commander in Chief

To Colo. Scott
Brigade Inspector

From the Governor to the Secretary of War

Town of Washington Aug. 30. 1809

Sir,

I took the liberty of suggesting to you in a letter which I wrote from Winchester in Virginia the propriety and utility of appointing a Brigadier General of the militia of this Territory, and named for that office Colonel Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne. Since my arrival here I have become more impressed with the belief that this measure would greatly tend to improve the condition of the militia in every respect. Permit me therefore again to call your attention to the subject. Colonel Claiborne is a gentleman whose experience and military talents render him well qualified to fill the office.

I have within a day or two received some unpleasant information respecting the Creeks, and a part of the Chactaw Indians called the Spanish party. It is rumoured that they have been conspiring together, and have intimated an intention to murder the travellers upon the road leading from this place through the Indian Country to Nashville in Tennessee. An Indian of the Chactaw Nation first mentioned to me the unfriendly disposition of the Creeks, and this morning Mr. Secretary Williams received a letter from a white man residing in the Indian Nation on the road, stating that the above intelligence had been communicated to him. Although I do not place much belief in the report, yet thinking it entitled to more credit than the common rumours of this kind (which are frequently heard without any foundation) I have deemed it my duty to make it a subject of communication, in order that you may give instructions if you think proper, in the event of any hostile appearances on the part of the Indians.

I have the honor to be &c.

Hon.ble William Eustis
Secretary of War

David Holmes.

From the Governor to Major Stoddard.

Town of Washington September 1. 1809.

Sir,

I received a letter a few days ago from Nathaniel Fulsome a whiteman residing in the Indian Nation, stating that he had heard from some Chactaw Indians friendly to the United States, that the Spanish party of their Nation and the Creeks were conferring together and about to unite for the purpose of murdering the travellers on the trace from this place to Nashville. Altho' I place but little belief in the report, yet thinking it entitled to more credit than the common rumors of this kind which we frequently hear, I embrace the opportunity of your paſsing through the Indian country to request that you would be so obliging as to inquire whether there are any just grounds to suspect these Indians for entertaining hostile intentions towards the United States, and to communicate to me by letter on the subject.

I have the honor to be
with very great respect,
Sir yr. Ob. Servant
David Holmes.

Major
Amos Stoddard.

From the Governor to William Dickson.

Town of Washington Sept. 8. 1809

Dear Sir,

The Executive of this Territory have been and still are very much at a loſs for a knowledge of proper characters to fill the various appointments eſsential to the organizing of the County of Madison. I have not met with a person in this part of the country who poſseſsed any information upon the subject; — I therefore take the liberty to request that you will be so obliging as to make out and transmit to me a list of the names of persons residing in different parts of the County who in your opinion it would be proper to appoint to the offices mentioned at the foot of this letter. In doing this you will have special care not to enter the name of any one who is in the remotest degree connected with the Yazoo claim, or whose friends or relations have an interest in its establishment. I would not for any consideration that an error should be committed in this respect. I will also thank you to inform me whether these claimants have settled on the public lands in any considerable number in the County. From the circumstance of your having attended the sales of lands which took place in august last, you are in all probability better able to furnish the information requested than any other person. (Your attention to this business will render a service to the United States, and oblige,

Dr Sir,
Your friend & Obt Servt
David Holmes

William Dickson esqr.
Register of the L. Office
Madison County

5 to fill the offices of Justices, ~~of the Quorum~~ (I am not certain but that some have been appointed.- You can however, send me the names of five persons)

1. Colonel
2. Majors
10. Captains — as many Lieutenants, & Ensigns.
4. Justices of the Peace. —

From the Governor to Louis Winston esqr.

Town of Washington Sept. 9. 1809.

Sir,

The intercourse between this place and the County of Madison being very inconsiderable, the Executive are much at a loss for a knowledge of proper characters to fill the various offices essential to the interest and welfare of the people in that part of the Territory. I must therefore request that you will be so obliging as to forward to me a list of the names of such persons in different parts of the County as in your opinion it would be proper to appoint to the offices mentioned at the foot of this letter. In doing this you will take special care not to enter the name of any one in the least degree connected with the Yazoo claim, or whose friends or relations are interested in its establishment. I am very solicitous that no error should be committed in this respect.

I am Sir, very respectfully
Your Ob: Servt.
David Holmes

Louis Winston esqr.
Atto. General
Madison County

1. Colonel
2. Majors
10. Captains
5. Justices of the Quorum, if none have been appointed,
of which I am not certain.
4. Justices of the Peace.

From the Governor to Silas Dinsmoor esqr.

Town of Washington Sept. 19. 1809

Dear Sir,

I was informed some time ago that a certain Philip McGee residing on the new purchase not far from the line of demarkation, had murdered an Indian of some distinction in the Chactaw Nation. The persons who first communicated the intelligence mentioned it as mere rumor without knowing any thing of the circumstance from their own knowledge. I immediately instituted an enquiry from which it appears that an Indian died at the house of McGee, whose own story of the affair is substantially related in the inclosed deposition. In a conversation with Mr. Lea the Sheriff of Amite County he informed me that he entertained no doubt of McGee's being innocent. I expect in a few days to receive all the evidence that can be procured relative to this unpleasant business, and will transmit to you copies of the depositions by the earliest opportunity. I am convinced Sir, that you will manage this affair in the way best calculated to satisfy and quiet the minds of the Indians.

I am with great respect
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Silas Dinsmoor esqr.
Agt. to the Chactaws

P.S. The Indian who died at McGee's I've understood was a chief belonging to the Six Towns.

The importance of this occurrence will require your immediate attention. I've directed McGee to be apprehended — if his guilt should appear you may assure the Indians of his being punished.

D. H.

From the Governor to Joseph Johnson esqr

Town of Washington Sept. 21. 1809

Sir,

The first information I received respecting the riot that has disturbed the peace and alarmed the good citizens of your neighbourhood, was through a letter directed to the Attorney General Mr. Shields who answered the same by stating his opinion (in which I concurred) that if the Sheriff was unable to execute the process issued by the civil authority, he should call to his aid in the first place the power of the County. I afterwards received your letter with a memorial from a number of the citizens of Pinckneyville but not until saturday, being the day after the mail left this place. This accident will account for your not having received an answer in due time. Your second letter with one from Mr. Randolph and several depositions I received this morning together with one from the Sheriff.

From the representations contained in these communications, I have taken such measures as I trust will not only allay the fears of the citizens of Pinckneyville and its vicinity, but bring to Justice as many of the banditti who have been concerned in the outrages as shall have the audacity to appear on this side of the line. Col. Cushing has been requested by me (and I entertain no doubt of his compliance) to furnish a sufficient number of men to patrole the line of demarcation from the river for a considerable distance above Pinckneyville; and Major Stockel is ordered to have an armed force detached from the militia to aid the civil authority to apprehend these culprits if any of them can be found within our jurisdiction. Be pleased Sir, to communicate this information to your neighbours, and receive my thanks for the vigilant and active conduct you have shewn in the discharge of your duty as an officer of the Peace. I have not enjoyed a days health since the first week of my arriving in the Territory From sunday last until yesterday my indisposition was such as to prevent my attending to the ordinary business of the Office. The citizens of Pinckneyville and it's vicinity however may rely upon my taking every measure necessary for their safety and the support of the authority of the Laws.

I am Sir, respectfully
Yr Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Joseph Johnson esqr.

P.S. I will thank you to procure and forward to me a correct description of the person of John Martin
D. H.

From the Governor to Edward Randolph.

Town of Washington Sept. 21. 1809

Sir,

I received your letter with a number of depositions by the last mail, on the subject of the late outrages committed near Pinckneyville. Mr. Johnson will inform you of the measures I have deemed it proper to take on this occasion, which I trust will allay your fears and those of your neighbours. The depositions shall be returned by the next mail. I must however, request you to furnish me with copies, properly attested by the Justices before whom they were taken, or the original papers which I should prefer.

I am Sir,
Your Obed. Servt.
David Holmes

Mr.
Edwd. Randolph

From the Governor to the Sheriff of Wilkinson

Town of Washington Sept. 21. 1809.

Sir,

I received your letter by the last mail with other communications on the same subject. I regret xtremely the circumstances which have taken place at Pinckneyville, and cannot but entertain the opinion that they might have been suppressed before any mischief was done, if the Sheriff had called to his aid the power of the County as by law he was authorized to do. From the representations made by the last communication, I have deemed it proper to request Col. Cushing to furnish a number of regular troops to patrole along the line of demarcati and have ordered Major Samuel Stockit to detach from his battalion one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, two Corporals and twenty four privates to be held in readiness to assist the civil authority if required. If therefore any of the banditti should appear on this side of the line, and you should not be able to execute the process issued by the civil authority against them, by the means pointed out by the law, you will call upon Major Stockett to aid you with the whole or part of the detachment I have ordered to be held in readiness. I presume however, it will not be necessary as the patrole upon the line will detect any of the party who may attempt to cross it. I do not wish you to call for the military aid unless circumstances shall clearly require it. Major Stockel will furnish you with a copy of my letter directing in what manner the militia are to conduct themselves if called upon this service. To these instructions you will strictly adhere.

I am &c.

William Conwell Esqr }
Sheriff of Wilkinson Co. }

David Holmes

P.S. If John Martin should make his appearance on this side of the line I hope he will be taken— you must use your best endeavours to apprehend him. Send me a description of his person.

D. H—

From the Governor to Col. Cushing.

Town of Washington Sept. 21. 1809.

Sir

I have received information from Pinckneyville that a number of lawless men some of them citizens of the United States, and others residing on the Spanish side of the line of demarcation, have for some time past disturbed the peace and threatened the lives of many of the inhabitants of that town and its vicinity.— That this banditti have evaded the execution of the process issued by the civil authority in some instances by force and in others by crossing the line and taking refuge in the Spanish Dominions. I have also understood that this conduct has its origin from a long and inveterate quarrel between two families (the Kempers and Hortons) and that parties have arisen on both sides of the line by persons attaching themselves to the cause of one or the other of these families— Of this however I have no positive information— but from the representations that have been made I am induced to believe the peace and safety of the inhabitants of that part of Wilkinson County, and the protection of the Territory of the United States from the incursions of such as reside near the line in the Spanish dominions, require military aid so far as to protect our own citizens and our soil. I have therefore to request that you will order a detachment (to be commanded by a discreet officer) for the purpose of patroling along the line of demarcation from the River Mississippi to Daniel Clark's farm called Sligo, about eight miles from Pinckneyville, and further, if it should be found necessary ~~necessary~~. The object of this detachment will be, to apprehend and take before a Justice of the Peace, all persons who may be seen near to the line on this side, or crossing it from the Spanish Territory who may justly be suspected of having hostile views against any citizen of the United States, and also, all persons who may have been concerned in resisting by an armed force the civil authority— whether their usual residence be in the dominions of Spain, or the County of Wilkinson. You will also direct the Officer to have apprehended any person who may attempt to cross the line from this side with an avowed or evident intention to commit any outrage upon the inhabitants or property of the subjects of Spain. In a late attempt that ~~was made~~ the Sheriff of Wilkinson made to arrest one of the banditti by the name of John Martin, he fired upon a man called to the assistance of the civil Officer, wounded him mortally, and immediately escaped over the line. Martin cannot be pursued into the foreign Territ but I trust if he should have the audacity to appear within our jurisdiction he will be apprehended. A description of his person and that of others concerned in the riot, can be given I suppose by the Sheriff.

You will charge the commanding Officer of the detachment to exercise all his discretion in the performance of his duty on this occasion. Special care must be had that none of the troops croſs the line, and that no innocent person be arrested.

I hope you will comply with my request as soon as poſsible. The number of men neceſsary for the service you can better judge of than myself. I suppose a Lieutenants command will be sufficient — if you think otherwise you will order a greater number. They may be stationed at the place which in your opinion will be most convenient at the proper periods to relieve such as may be on actual duty on the line.

In calling upon you for this military aid I have been governed by a belief that acts may probably be committed by the subjects of a foreign territory, which ultimately might lead to unpleasant consequences between the people of that Territory and the Government of the United States.

I am Sir
With great respect and esteem,
Your Ob. Servt
David Holmes.

Col. Th: H. Cushing.

P.S.
I will thank you to acknowledge the receipt of this letter by the return mail —

From the Governor to Major Stocket

Town of Washington Sept. 21. 1807

Sir

I received your letter of the 17th instant wit several other communications from Pinckneyville on th same subject by the last mail. From the representations they contain I deem it expedient to order you to detach immediately from your battalion, one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, two Corporals and twenty four privates, to be well armed and equipped. You will direct this detachment to hold themselv in readiness to aid the civil authority when called upon to apprehend such persons as may have been concerned in the outrages committed by an armed banditti in the neighbourhood of Pinckneyvil You will take care to select a discreet Officer for the command, who will consider himself under the direction of the civil Officer to whose aid he may be called. He is not to suffer any of the men under his command to cross the line of demarcation in any event; nor is he to permit them to fire on any person unless in the actual defence of the life of the civil Officer or some of the detachment; — nor to molest any person who was not actually engaged as a part of the armed banditti. In short Sir, for the officer to discharge the duty aſsigned to him without doing any personal injury, is my most earnest request, and I hope, as you informed me that it was your intention to accompany the detachment if called upon, you will constantly have this object in view. Should John Martin the person who dangerously wounded a citizen when attempting to aid the Sheriff in the discharge of his duty, have the audacity to appear on this side of the line, I request you will use all the means in your power to aid the civil authority to have him apprehended. You will recollect the detachment cannot take any part in this busineſs unleſs called upon by the civil authority. It is probable their aſsistance will not be required as I have requested Col. Cushing to furnish a number of regular troops to patrole along the line of demarcation. It would be proper to detail the men from ~~your~~ the militia of your own neighbourhood, that they might rendezvous at such a place as the civil Officer might require.

I rely much Sir, upon your discretion, activity and vigilance, and hope you will conduct this busineſs conformably to the sentiments I have expreſsed.

I am Sir, with respect,
Your Ob. Servt.
David Holmes.

Major Saml. Stocket
Wilkinson Co.

From the Governor to Col. Cushing.

Town of Washington Sept. 24. 1809

Sir,

In reviewing a copy of the letter which I wrote to you on the 21st inst— I conjecture that I may not have been sufficiently explicit in stating the authority I wish to have given to the detachment I have requested you to furnish. It is my desire that the duties of the patrole should be confined to the line of demarcation, and that the following description of persons only should be subject to arrest, that is to say— persons who appeared in arms in defiance of the civil authority, who may be found lurking about the line with a view to escape, and against whom process has been issued— Persons who may be seen crossing the line with an avowed or evident intention to commit some lawless act within the jurisdiction of the United States, and also any person or party who may attempt to enter the Spanish Territory from this side with an evident intention to commit some outrage therein. The Sheriff can inform the commanding Officer of the names and probably give a description of the persons against whom process has issued— I am very anxious that Martin should be apprehended.

Accept Sir the assurances
of my respect and esteem

Col. Tho. H. Cushing } David Holmes.

P.S.

The troops are not to fire upon any who were merely concerned in the riot, as that would not be justified by law — nor unless attacked by an armed force, in which case they would of course defend themselves.

D.H.

From the Governor to Major Stocket

Sir,

In addition to the instructions contained in my letter of the 21st inst — you will take special care that no person any way interested in the quarrel from which it is said the late outrages near Pinckneyville originated, be selected or received as one of the detachment ordered to be held in readiness. I expect to hear from you by the next mail.

I am Sir
Your Ob. Servt
David Holmes.

Major Saml. Stocket

Town of Washington Sept. 24. 1809

From the Governor to David Berry Interpreter to the Chactaws —

Washington Sept. 26. 1809

Sir,

I have been informed that a party of Chactaw Indians consisting of two or three in number, have left Tcula Town with a design of committing some outrage on the frontiers of Amite County in consequence

of the death of an Indian which happened at
house of Philip McGee who resided on the ne
purchase about thirty miles from the County line.
McGee states that the Indian came to his house sick
and there died a natural death — that he threw
the corpse into the river least it should be
discovered by some of the Indians who might
believe the man had been murdered, and without
enquiring into the circumstances, take satisfaction
for the supposed injury. This relation of McGee's
is supported by other evidence. You will
proceed immediately to the County of Amite,
and from thence to the neighbourhood where
McGee resided. On your way you will endeav
to ascertain whether my information respecting
this party is correct. Should you meet with any
Indians inform them that it is believed the
Indian died a natural death; — that if it
should appear otherwise the person who has been
guilty shall be punished; — that let the case be
as it may I am willing to settle the business upon
fair and friendly terms; — but should any of the
Indians attempt to commit depredations, or
murder any of the white inhabitants in consequen
of this affair, without applying to me or the Agent
for an explanation and friendly adjustment, they ma

expect to meet with prompt and exemplary punishment. You will also represent to them that it is the wish of the United States to be on terms of Peace and friendship with the said people, and that the Government will be always ready to redress any injury they may sustain from the conduct of bad white people as fully and speedily as is within their power. You will report to me upon your return all the information you may acquire respecting this business.

David Holmes.

From the Governor to the Sheriff of Wilkinson County

Town of Washington Sept. 29. 1809

Sir,

I received your letter by the last mail and am happy to hear that order has been restored in your neighbourhood. If you should require aid to discharge your duty in apprehending any of the banditti in addition to the usual means, you will call first upon a part or the whole of the detachment of militia ordered to hold themselves in readiness for that purpose. I wish you to inform me by the next mail whether there exists any necessity to continue the orders that have been given to the regular troops

I am &c

William Connell esqr.
Sheriff of Wilkinson Co.

David Holmes

From the Governor to Col. Cushing.

Town of Washington Sep. 29. 1

Sir,

I had the honor to receive your letter of th 26th instant by the last mail, with a copy of the instructions given to the Officer commanding ne Pinckneyville. The caution which you have observed upon the occasion I trust will prevent any unpleasant occurrence; I wish however, the orders had been confined to the requisition of the Sheriff as he is the proper Officer to serve all process that may issue from the civil authority— But I presume there will be no necessity to require the assistance of the troops, as the banditti have fled, and order appears to have been restored. To continue the detachment on the line for the purpose of intercepting deserters, will have a good effect by deterring the banditti from again appearing in arms. I have written to the Sheriff to inform me by the next mail whether there exists any necessity to continue the orders given to the regular troops respecting the rioters; ~~but~~ upon the receipt of his letter I will communicate to you my wishes on the subject.

I am Sir with respect
Yr. Ob: Servt
David Holmes

Col. Cushing
Columbian Springs

(Circular)

From the Governor to the members of the Legislative Council.

Town of Washington Sep. 30. 1

Sir,

You are hereby informed that you have been appointed by the President of the United States a member of the Legislative Council for this Territory, and that your commission is filed in the Secretary Office. The Legislature will of course meet on the first monday in November next being the day appointed by law.

I am Sir, with great respect
Your Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

To
Alexr. Montgomery
David McCaleb
Thomas Barnes
Joseph Robert
Joseph Carson
esqrs.

From the Governor to the Chickasaw Agent

Sir, Town of Washington Oct. 2. 1809

Mr. David Thompson of Adams County informs me that he had stolen from him in the Chickasaw Nation about three years ago, a valuable mare, that she is now in possession of one of the Indians, and notwithstanding his application to the former Agent upon the subject no measure has been taken to secure to him his property. I will thank you to examine the evidence that may be exhibited to establish the claim, and to proceed to have justice done to the applicant conformably to the act of Congress to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob.
David Holmes

To the Agent of the
Chickasaws.

P.S. I presume you have received instructions how to act in cases of this kind,— you will of course pursue them. D-H.

From the Governor to the Sheriff of Wilkinson

Town of Washington Oct. 6th 1809

Sir,

I wrote to you by the last mail, requesting you to inform me whether there yet exists any necessity to continue the orders given to the troops respecting the rioters in your neighbourhood, and am much surprized at not having received an answer. I again request that you will inform me by the first opportunity whether military aid is still requisite to enable you to discharge your duty as a civil Officer. You will also communicate any other information you may possess respecting this unpleasant business.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob.
David Holmes

William Connell esqr.
Sheriff of Wilkinson Co.

From the Governor to Col. Cushing.

Town of Washington Oct. 11. 180

Sir,

From information I received yesterday, I am satisfied there exists no necessity at present to continu the orders given to the detachment of troops posted near Pinckneyville; and having had some intimation that certain Officers of the civil authority have no conducted the business agreeably to my expectations, I must request that upon the receipt of this letter, you will countermand all orders which may have been issued to the commander of the detachment, to aid the Sheriff, or to interfere in any way respecting civil process.

I am Sir, with great respect
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Col. Tho. H. Cushing

P.S. I ask the favour of you to acknowledge the receipt of this letter by the Messenger. D. H.

From the Governor to the Sheriff of Wilkinson Co.

Town of Washington Oct. 11. 1809

Sir,

I understand that the necessity for military interposition to enable you to discharge your duty in apprehending the armed banditti who opposed the civil authority near Pinckneyville has ceased — I have therefo thought proper to request Col. Cushing to countermand all orders that have been given to the regul troops respecting this disagreeable business. Maj Stockett will also be directed to discharge the milit that were ordered to hold themselves in readiness, from that service. Should any occurrence take place (in your opinion) of a nature to require the aid of an armed force you will immediately inform me fully of the circumstances— until then you will use only the usual means to suppress any outrage by commanding any person to assist within your view, or summoning the posse. I have not received an answer to either of my two last letters written to you on this subject.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob. Servant
David Holmes.

William Connell esq.
Sheriff of Wilkinson Co.

From the Governor to Major Stockett.

Town of Washington Oct. 13. 1809

Sir,

You will immediately upon the receipt of this letter discharge the detachment of militia who were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to aid the civil authority (if called upon by the Sheriff of Wilkinson County) from that service.

I am Sir
your Ob. Servt.
David Holmes.

Major Saml. Stockett.

From the Governor to the Secretary of War.

Washington M. T. Octr 21. 180

Sir,

I have this day drawn on you in duplicate bills for seventy five dollars, payable at five days sight in favour of David Berry Indian Interpreter to the Chactaws for this Government being the amount of salary due for the quarter ending the thirtieth day of September last. I also drew in July ~~last~~, duplicate bills for his quarters salary due the first day of that month, which bills were not accompanied with a letter of advice.

I am respectfully
Yr Most Ob. Servt
David Holmes

Honble
William Eustis
Secretary of War

From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Town of Washington October 22. 1809

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Commiſsion for the Legislative Council, and also your letter of the 1st ultimo, informing me that you had transmitted 57 copies of the laws of the United States, paſsed at the second Seſsion of the 10th Congreſs, being the proportion for this Territory. The Commiſsion for the Legislative Council was not received until after the mail had left this place for Washington County. It is possible therefore Mr Carson the member from that quarter may not receive notice of his appointment in time to attend at the commencement of the Session of the Legislature. I have however, forwarded a letter to him via New Orleans and will embrace a private opportunity if any should offer.

The County of Madison lying in the great bend of Tennessee is distant about four hundred miles from this place, to which there is no direct communication by mail. Owing to this circumstance, the Executive of the Territory have not had it in their power to procure such information respecting characters as would enable them to make all the appointments of civil and military officers required by law, and essential to the complete organization of the County. I have written to two gentlemen of respectability on this subject; both of whom I believe possess a considerable knowledge of the citizens of that part of the country. So soon as I receive their answers I hope to be able to arrange the business in a satisfactory manner. No person within my knowledge shall be appointed to an office who is in any degree connected with, or interested in, the Yazoo speculation.

The Ordinance for the Government of

this Territory does not authorize the Legislature
establish courts of criminal jurisdiction. Fro
the situation of the county of Madison, it will be
extreamly inconvenient if practicable, for the Judges
who generally reside in this county to hold courts
there for the trial of persons who may be charged
with crimes.— I would therefore respectfully suggest
the propriety of creating an additional Judge who
should reside in the county with powers similar
to those with which the Judge of Washington County
is invested.

Some time in September last an unpleasant
circumstance took place in Wilkinson County, near
the line of demarcation. A Banditti composed
of persons residing on both sides of the line assembled
as I was informed near Pinckneyville and committed
outrages which alarmed the inhabitants of that place.
The cause of this conduct was in some measure
connected with the outrage committed upon the
Kempers two or three years ago. Measures were
taken to aid the civil authority as soon as I was
satisfied the case required Executive interposition.
The Banditti were dispersed and peace and good
order restored.

Since my arrival in the Territory I have
laboured under almost constant indisposition.
To this circumstance I hope Sir, you will have

the goodness to attribute my not having wr
to you at an earlier period.

I am Sir,
With every sentiment of respect,
Y^{r}. Ob. Ser^{t}
David Holmes

The Honble
Robert Smith
Secretary of State

From the Governor to the Chactaws Agent

Town of Washington,
October 23rd 1809

Sir,

Since I wrote to you last I have received information satisfactory to me that the Indian who died at the house of McGee near Pearl River, was not murdered. He came there unwell with a fever, and died a natural death — this is the opinion of some of the most reputable people in Amite County, and is corroborated by testimony in addition to that I forwarded to you some time ago. I have thought proper to give you this information in order that you may represent the subject in its true light. I have been informed that some Indians of the Lower towns have threatened to

take satisfaction for the supposed injury. My informat
however, is not from any direct source, and I hope
it may not be correct.

I am Sir

Silas Dinsm[illegible]   Yr. Ob. Servt.
Agent to the Chactaws.   David Holmes

From the Governor to Col. Richards.

Town of Washington Oct. 24. 1809

Sir,

I received your letter of the 20th instant on the subject of Mr. Montgomery's claim to be remunerated for losses he sustained by the Indians. Mr. Dinsmoor the Agent to the Chactaws has been absent from this place ever since my arrival. As soon as I have an opportunity of seeing him his attention shall be called to this business.

Philip McGhee the man who was suspected of having murdered the Indian on Pearl River, has been with me — I am satisfied from some additional testimony he produced that the Indian died a natural death. He informed me that a party of Indians from the Lower Towns had appeared on the frontiers of Amite and were about to take satisfaction for the supposed injury. This information however, was of his own knowledge. Should you hear of any such part party I will thank you to have communicated to them my sentiments upon the subject, contained in the instructions to David Berry, a copy of which I inclose to you.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you have ascertained whether McGee's information is correct.

I am, Sir
With great respect

Col. W. R. Richards. David Holmes

Town of Washington Novr. 8. 1809

David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory,

To all who shall see these presents:

Be it Known that I do hereby authorize and impower Stephen Neal Esqr. of Madison County, to administer the oath of office as prescribed by law to all officers whom I have or may appoint in the said County of Madison. The power and authority aforesaid to be exercised by the said Stephen Neal until the same shall be revoked by the Governor.

David Holmes.

From the Governor to the Legislature.

Fellow-Citizens of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives:

[illegible] the duty of addressing you at the commence[illegible] of your session, I feel a degree of diffidence not only inspired by a want of that ample knowledge of the local interests of the Territory, requisite to render a communication of this kind as useful to the Legislature as might be expected, but also from a want of confidence in my capacity, even with the best lights it is capable of receiving, to discharge the important trusts imposed by the office I hold, in the way best calculated to ensure the safety, welfare and prosperity of the people of this Territory. In free Governments those who are entrusted with the management of public affairs, must feel a weight of responsibility proportionate to the extent and importance of the duties enjoined upon them to perform — their misconduct, their errors, and in some instances their misfortunes, affect not merely an individual they are felt by that community whose happiness they are bound in conscience, and by every tie of gratitude to promote. When therefore we consider the probationary form of Government adopted (no doubt with the best motives) for the Territories of the United States, we will find in the powers and duties attached to the Executive Department, abundant cause to make him w[illegible] fills the Office of Chief Magistrate, sensible of the importan and difficulty of the task committed to his care, his discretion and his vigilance.

In calling your attention to subjects that require legislative consideration, it is a matter of much regret to me, that the short period I [illegible]ided in the Territory and the state of my h[illegible] during that period, has rendered it out of my power to acquire a full knowledge of the state of our public concerns, and especially of those defects in the laws which the test of experience is frequently pointing out as proper objects for legislative revision. So far as a limited view of the state of our public affairs will enable me I shall endeavour to present to you my sentiments upon a few subjects of a general as well as of a special nature.

Unlike most Governments on earth the free institutions under which the people of the United States enjoy so singular and distinguished a degree of happiness, were formed not by force, fraud, intrigue or stratagem — they derive their origin from the sober, rational reflections of a people whom fortuitous circumstances prepared to assert and maintain those rights, which are alone calculated to promote the comfort, and elevate the character of man. To cherish, to protect and improve them are sacred duties we owe to ourselves and posterity. The preservation of these inestimable blessings unalloyed by the mixture of anarchy on the one hand, or tyranny on the other, depending upon the wisdom, patriotism and purity of the people, the source from whence all authority in this coun is derived, it follows that one great object in a Republic Government should be to facilitate the means of acquiring useful information. However sound the judgment and pure may be the [illegible] the mind is uninformed, it is liable to error, and [illegible] the attacks of the artful and ambitious. As a princip[illegible] mean to accomplish this desirable end, the establishment of seminaries of learning for the benefit of the rising generation, would be worthy of the attention of the Legislature. An opportunity ought to be afforded to youth of receiving education in our own country, where they may early imbibe ~~those~~ those principles of liberty which at mature age it will be their duty as citizens to guard and support. The experience of some of the states of the Union have clearly demonstrated that literary institutions may be established under the patronage of the Legislature, without laying oppressive burdens upon the people, calculated for almost every individual in the community to partake of their benefits. How far it may be proper for us to follow their example you gentlemen, from your knowledge of the circumstances of our citizens generally, and the present means of obtaining education are best able to judge.

Altho' a state of peace and tranquility is peculiarly accordant with the genius of a Republican Government, yet from the present state of the world it now is, and probably ever will be, indispensible for a people who wish to maintain their independence, whatever may be their political principles, to be prepared to defend their rights against the aggressions, outrages and insult, which ambition or a domineering spirit may prompt other nations to commit. In the United States, it has been a accepted aphorism, that the c[illegible] capable of bearin arms, whose interests are connec[illegible] and involved i the fate of their country form the [illegible]ence of a free people. To give efficiency to this species of force good order and discipline are most essentially requisite. Laws therefore for the well organizing of the militia, ought to command your serious and unremitting attention, whilst imperfections that can be remedied by Legislative aid are obvious. The present system so far as I am capable of judging is not calculated to produce the good effects that the framers of it unquestionably intended. Whether it may be deemed proper at the present session to take up the subject generally with the view of making radical changes, or merely to remedy some of the most prominent defects, you will be enabled to determine from the progress and importance of business that may occupy your deliberations. I cannot however omit to ask your attention to some parts of the law that are so very deficient, as to render the execution of them extreamly difficult and imperfect. The mode at present of assessing, collecting and accounting for the fines that individuals become liable to pay does not establish those salutary checks that ought to be placed upon the conduct of all officers who receive public money; nor is it calculated to produce that uniformity of decision [illegible] inculcates a cheerful obedience to laws affecting the great body of the people. The regulations respecting patrols are [illegible]tutive — they cannot be executed without subjecting [illegible] to an oppreſsive expense and great inconvenien[illegible] importance of this branch of our police needs [illegible] illustration — every one acquainted with the situation of the Territory must feel a deep interest in having it placed upon the best poſsible condition.

The Judiciary system, and especially that part of it denominated the penal code, claims your attention. In Governments constructed on the principles of securing the liberty and safety of every individual in the community, it is all important that the laws to prevent the commiſsion of offences, should be so framed as to ensure their execution. In order to effect this object the punishment for crimes should in every instance, be proportionate to the magnitude of the offence — exorbitant penalties having a tendency only to render the law inefficient by diminishing the certainty of punishment. I am inclined to believe you will find by reviewing the existing laws upon this subject, that in some instances they are susceptible of amendments which would greatly tend to promote public justice.

From the circumstance of no law having been paſsed at the last seſsion of the Legislature authorizing the collection of a revenue during the present year, for the support of Government, you will readily perceive, that the fiscal concerns of the Territory, require your earliest attention

The report of the Auditor of Public accounts wi furnish you with the amount issued by him in warrants, from the first day of January last, until the first day of the present mon[illegible] the report of the Treasurer will shew the [illegible]ceived by him during the same period. It [illegible] that upwards of five thousand dollars of the public debt has been redeemed within the present year. The balance still circulating in warrants has not been precisely ascertained, but I am informed it cannot exceed four thousand dollars. Should the Legislature therefore authorize the raising a revenue for this year, on the same principles that the tax was laid for the last year, it will be sufficient in all probability to redeem the whole of the public debt, and pay the current expenses of the Government for one year calculating from the first day of the present month being the period to which the accounts are made up.

The keeping in good repair the public roads and high-ways, is not only productive of great convenience to the citizens of a country by facilitating intercourse, but it in fact adds to the general stock of wealth, by diminishing the expense of transporting the products of the soil to the respective markets. Whether the existing laws upon this subject have answered the purpose for which they were intended, the circumstan of your coming from every part of the Territory, wi enable you to judge; and I am confident if they have proved defective you will apply such remedies as may comport with the interest of yourselves and your constituents.

Ge[illegible] of the Legislative Council
and Hou[illegible]resentatives.

[illegible] object the people of the United States had in view by forming a free representative Government, was, to secure to themselves and posterity the full enjoyment and exercise of all rights that are consistent with, and subordinate to, a state of society. In order to effectuate this end, the people themselves were deemed the only safe repository from whence all authority should be drawn, and where the sovereignty of the nation should reside. To maintain and perpetuate the principles of a government thus constructed, altho' much may depend upon the conduct of public agents, yet, much more depends upon the state of society, and the conduct of the individuals composing it; — so long as the right of suffrage remains unimpaired, a virtuous and enlightened community can easily correct abuses before great and irreparable mischiefs ensue, but when the people themselves, the fountain of all power, become unmindful of their duties, by ceasing to be watchful of encroachments upon their liberties on the one hand, or by suffering on the other party rancour, passion and prejudice, to prostrate that respect for the authority of the laws upon which the existence of a free state depends, then alas! there is no remedy.

Anarch

Anarchy or tyranny must prevail during such a state of things. It is true that in all Governments where the free communication of sentiments upon public affairs is tolerated, parties will arise and they ought not to be deprecated [illegible] when they originate from an honest difference of opinion, and are conducted with the moderation and candour essential to the investigation of truth; but when they assume a degree of malignity and intolerance which threatens to destroy the social and civil ties, government itself becomes endangered.

You have been selected gentlemen, from among your fellow citizens, and honoured with the highest trust they are capable of conferring; the right to legislate being superior to all other powers that a free people can consistently grant. Your constituents therefore have a right confidently to expect that your deliberations will be conducted with the harmony, candour and moderation calculated to present an useful example to the community, and to support the respectability of the Legislative body.

To co-operate with you in the adoption of such measures as the general welfare may require, will be to me a source of much gratification.

David Holmes

11th November 1809

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Town of Washington
Novemr. 29. 1809

Sir,

In [illegible] with the request of the Legislature of this Terri[illegible] myself the honor to forward to you an address [illegible] the President of the United States, soliciting him to use such means as may comport with the public interest, to acquire from the Indians, the tract of country lying on the Yazoo river. The importance of this object to the prosperity of the Territory, and to the general benefit of the United States, is obvious not only from the geographical situation of the country, but from the intrinsic value of the lands lying on both sides of the Yazoo river. In a pecuniary point of view, I cannot entertain a doubt but that it would prove to be a very advantageous purchase upon any terms that might be considered reasonable, when contrasted with the purchases that have heretofore been made with the Indians.

Since my last letter to you I have received information that has enabled me to fill the most important Offices in Madison County and I believe with gentlemen of the first respectability and talents in that part of the Territory. Every precaution has been taken to avoid appointing any person concerned in the Yazoo speculation, and I have reason to think we have not in any instance been deceived.

I have honor &c.

David Holme

From the Governor to the Secretary of War

Town of Washington Dec. 6th 1809

Sir,

At the request of the Legislature of this Territory I forward to you an address to the President of the United States, requesting him to appoint a Brigadier General of the militia. My sentiments upon this subject are already known to you. I shall only add that the appointment of Col. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne, would give general satisfaction.

I am respectfully
Yr. Ob.
David Holmes

From the Governor to the House of Representatives

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

Upon perusing the act to amend an act intituled "An act to erect the Town of Natchez into a city, and to incorporate the same," and for other purposes, I have discovered an error in the fourth line of the eleventh section. It appears that a material word between the words "within and "days" has been omitted. As the bill originated in your house, I return it for your correction.

December 9th 1809. } David Holmes

From the Governor to the House of Representatives

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

[illegible] return for the revision of the Legislature [illegible] intitled "An act to incorporate the pl[illegible]s society of Claiborne County," which originated in your house, and has been referred to me for my assent.

Upon examining the act it will be found that the object for which the corporate powers are granted to the persons therein named is not expressed, or to be collected from any construction that can be fairly given to the language thereof. The danger of granting general and extensive powers to any number of individuals and their successors by making them a body corporate without specifying the object to which such powers are to be applied, or limiting the period of existence of the body so created, will be obvious to the Legislature upon a reconsideration of the subject. As the real intention of the persons who wish to be incorporated may not only be innocent in itself but useful to the Public, I have adopted this mode of returning the act in preference to an absolute rejection in order that an opportunity may be afforded of making such alterations as the Legislature may, upon a revision, deem proper.

December 12th 1809 } David Holmes

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From the Governor to the Legislature.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council &
House of Representatives,

I submit to your consideration whether in consequence of the dissolution of the Legislature which took place on the 3rd of March last, and th election of members of the House of Representatives hel subsequent thereto, on the 18th day of May, being a different day to the one pointed out by the act regulating elections, has not rendered some Legista provision necessary to fix clearly the period for hold the next election for members to the House of Representa By the Ordinance the present members are to serve for two years unless the Legislature should be dissolve Their term of service will not expire until the 18th of May 1811 — notwithstanding it is considered questiona whether by the laws above mentioned, an election will not have to be holden on the 4th monday in July next, — I therefore deem it proper to suggest to th Legislature the expediency of doing away all doubt on this subject so important to their constituen by fixing a day upon which the next election shall be holden for members of the House of Representatives

David Holmes

From the Governor, to the Register of the Treasury.

Sir,

Washington Dec. 19. 1809

I have the honor to enclose to you an estimate of the expenses of [illegible] Government of this Territory, as stated by Mr. Williams, Secretary.

I am respectfully
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Joseph Nourse esqr.

From the Governor to Col. Richards.

Sir,

Town of Washington
December 21. 1809

Your letter of the 15th and that of the 19th instant were handed to me this morning by Col. Claiborne. In answer to the first you are informed that Capt. Davis from the circumstances you state, will be considered as removed from Office. You will therefore recommend a person to fill his place.

The information contained in your letter of the 19th shall command my immediate attention. Mr. Dinsmoor the agent to the Choctaw Indians is expected here this evening. It is probable he may have some further knowledge of the intentions of the Indians, who have assembled at McGee's farm. I shall avail myself of his services, and endeavour to ascertain their real object, and act accordingly. In the mean while I wish you to embrace every opportunity of procuring information from that part of the country

where

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where they are incamped. Should they make
movement of an hostile appearance you will in
me of it without delay. By the 27th section of
the militia law, the Commanding officer of the
County has a right to call out the militia to
repel any sudden invasion. I do not however,
think these Indians have any such intention; as
it appears they are accompanied with their families

The white people in forming settlements on the
new purchase have unquestionably acted in opposit
to a positive law. We cannot however permit
the Indians who have no claim to the land, to
correct them for their misconduct.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holme

Col. W. R. Richards
Amite County

A transcript of the foregoing Journal, from pag
357 was this day transmitted to the Secretary
of State.

Thos H. Williams
Secretary of the Mississippi Territ

Jany 11. 1810

January 4. 1810.

John Turnbull Esqr. of Warren County was authorized by the Governor to administer the oaths of office [illegible] within the said County.

Col. Hugh [illegible] on the same day was authorized to administer [illegible] required by law, to the militia officers in Wilkinson County.

January 5. 1810 —

Jacob Guice Esqr. was authorized the oaths of office to the several officers within the County of Franklin.

From the Governor to Col. Fitzpatrick.

Head Quarters Town of Washington,
January 6th 1810.

Sir,

I forward to you by I. Downs three military commissions — One for yourself as Lieut. Col. Commandant of the 4th Regiment — one for Major Fleharty, and one for Major Carradine. The militia law passed by the Legislature at their last session has not yet been printed; I therefore cannot at this time forward you a copy. It provides that the companies of each Regiment shall consist of sixty privates. You will proceed with the two Majors, to lay off your Regiment into Captains Districts, to contain that number as near as it can be done with convenience and transmit to me the names of such persons as you may think proper to recommend as Captains and subalterns in the respective districts. Whenever the law is printed you shall be furnished with a copy. In the mean time I wish the business of organizing the Regiment to progress.

David Holmes

From the Governor to the [illegible] of War.

Town of Washington Jany 12. 1810

Sir,

I have this day drawn a bill of exchange upon you in favour of David Berry the Interpreter to the Chactaw Indians for seventy five dollars, being the amount of his salary for the quarter ending the first day of the present month

Honble
William Eustis
Secretary of War

I am &c.
David Holmes

From the Governor to Major Skinner

Town of Washington
January 16. 1810

Sir

I enclose to you a commission as Major of the 9th Regiment of the militia of this Territory. Conformably to instructions contained in my letter to Col. James Patton you will proceed with him to lay out the Regiment into Captains' Districts and to recommend persons for Company Officers, and also for the Regimental Staff.

Major Josiah Skinner
of the 9th Regt

David Holmes
Commander in Chief

From the Governor to Col. Caller.

Town of Washington Jany 16. 1810

Sir,

I enclose to you a commiſsion as Lt Colonel commandant of the [illegible]ment of the militia of this Territory. William [illegible] and Nathaniel Christmas are appointed Majors. Their commiſsions are also forwarded by this mail.

The militia law paſsed at the last seſsion of the Legislature, has not yet been printed. I regret therefore that it is out of my power to furnish you with a copy. It provides that the companies composing each Regiment shall consist of sixty privates. As I am anxious that the organization of the militia should progreſs with as little delay as poſsible I have to request that you will immediately proceed in conjunction with the two Majors to lay out your Regiment into Captains Districts, and to recommend persons to serve as Company Officers in them respectively. You will also recommend persons to fill the following Staff officers of the Regiment — towit — one Adjutant, one Quarter master, One paymaster, one Surgeon and one Surgeon's mate.

I am Sir with respect
Y. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes
Commander in Chief

Col. James Caller
of the 6th Regt.

From the Governor to Major John Haines

Town of Washington Jany 20. 1810

Sir,

Upon the con[illegible] of the law for the divi
of Washington County [illegible] by the Legislature at
the last Session, a question [illegible] whether according
to the words of the act persons [illegible] the County
now bearing that name, who were commissioned as
officers before the existence of this law can be considered
legally in commission under the present arrangement.
In order to do away all doubt upon this subject, I
have thought proper to reappoint those who held
commissions before the law making the division was
enacted, except such as appertain exclusively to the District
Court who cannot be affected by the change.

I enclose to you a list of those who have been
appointed Justices of the Peace. It is possible I may
have omitted some for the want of information,
and therefore will thank you to let me know
the names of any other persons who were commissioned
as Justices before the law took place and who are
are now residents of Washington County.

I am Sir,

Yr Ob. Servt

David Holmes

Major John Haines
Fort St Stephens

From the Governor to Col. Joseph Carson.

Town of Washington Jany 20. 1810

Sir,

You have [illegible]d Lt Col. Commandant and Mr John Pie[illegible] the 8th Regiment of the militia of this Terr[illegible]h your commissions are forwarded by this [illegible] has been supposed that there are not a sufficient number of persons liable to perform militia duty resident within the County of Baldwin which constitutes the 8th Regiment, to form two battalions; I have therefore deemed it proper to appoint at this time but one Major. The militia law passed at the last session of the Legislature, has not yet been printed, it is out of my power therefore to furnish you with a copy. It provides that the companies in each Regiment shall consist of sixty privates. As I am anxious that the organization of the militia should progress without delay, I have to request that you will proceed immediately in conjunction with Major Pierce, to lay out your Regiment into Captains Districts, each to contain as near the number required by the law as may be found convenient, and to recommend such persons for company officers as you may deem proper in the respective districts. You will also recommend persons to fill the following Staff offices of the Regiment — towit — One adjutant — One quarter master One Paymaster One Surgeon and one Surgeon's Mate.

I am Sir, with great respect

Y. Ob. Servt

David Holmes

Commander in Chief

Col. Joseph Carson }
8th Regiment }

From the Governor to Col.o Patton

Town of Washington Jan.y 20. 1810

Sir,

You have [illegible] command and Mr. Josiah Skin[illegible] Regiment of the militia of this T[illegible] commissions are forwarded by this ma[illegible] supposed that there are not a sufficient nu[illegible] persons liable to perform militia duty, residing within the County of Wayne (which constitutes the 9th Regiment) to form two battalions — I have therefore deemed it proper to appoint at this time but one Major. The militia law passed at the last session of the Legislature has not yet been published — it is out of my power therefore to furnish you with a copy. It provides that the Companies in each Regiment shall consist of sixty privates. As I am anxious that the organization of the militia should progress without delay, I have to request that you will proceed immediately in conjunction with Major Skinner to lay out your Regiment into Captains Districts, each to contain as near the number required by the law as may be found convenient, and to recommend such persons for Company officers as you may deem proper in the respective districts. You will also recommend persons to fill the following Staff offices of the Regiment — to wit, — One Adjutant, one Quarter Master, One Paymaster, One Surgeon and one Surgeons mate.

I am Sir with great respect
Y. Ob. Serv.t David Holmes
Commander in Chief.

Col. James Patton
Commandant of the
9th Regiment

From the Governor to the Chickasaw Agent.

Town of Washington Feby 3. 1810

Sir,

Y[illegible] was handed to me yesterday by Mr. [illegible] letter I have ever received from you, except [illegible] November respecting the conduct of a certain Mr. [illegible] that of the 30th of December which you state [illegible] have written to me requesting aſsistance to remove in[illegible] from the Indian lands never came to hand, otherwise the importance of the subject would have commanded my immediate attention. Col. Ruſsell with some other officers of the United States' Army, will leave this place in a few days for the State of Kentucky. The Colonel will have instructions to paſs through the settlements of the intruders and order them to remove immediately from the Indian country. Should his orders be disregarded by these people who have acted in defiance of law, measures will be taken to effect the object by a military force. I presume the troops from Highwaſsee could be employed upon this service more conveniently and with leſs expense than from any other post. I shall represent to the Secretary at War without delay the urgency of this busineſs. In the mean time you may aſsure the Indians that a military force sufficient to remove the intruders from their lands will be ordered in all probability upon that service in the course of the ensuing spring, or at farthest early in the summer. To send troops at present from this place would be attended with great inconvenience expense and delay. The Garrison at Highwaſsee not being within the District commanded by General Hampton, I

cannot

and request him to furnish a force from thence. I entertain however, no doubt but that the Secretary at War will order a [illegible]ment for the purpose from that post, upon the [illegible] letter.

I have sub[illegible] General of this Territory the question of deciding upon the case ~~stated~~ in your letter of the 25th Nov. last. You shall hear from me as soon as I [illegible]is opinion. Until then retain in your possession the money and property belonging to the estate of the late Agent.

I am with great respect
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

James Neely Esqr.
U. S. agent to the
Chickasaws

By David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Robert Montgomery is hereby authorized to administer the oaths of Office to Henry Capels who has been appointed Treasurer for the County of Amite and also the oath of Office as Captain of the first Regiment of the militia of this Territory.

Given under my hand this 6th
February 1810 —

David Holmes

From the Governor to Col. Richards.

Town of Washington Feby 6. 18

Sir,

[illegible] Mr Capel, the commiss for the [illegible] agreeably to the recommendation [illegible] upon this subject. I entertai[illegible] that you will exert yourself to have [illegible] completely organized with as little delay [illegible] possible.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Col. Wm R. Richards.
1st Regiment

From the Governor to Peter A. Vandorn Esqr.

Town of Washington Feby 7. 1810

Sir,

I enclose to you a Commission as Clerk of the Superior Court of law and equity for Claiborne County. You will immediately take the oaths required by law, and demand of Mr Patterson the late Clerk of the Circuit Court the papers, shewing him at the same time your commission. Should he refuse to deliver them state to me the fact by the first opportunity. You will in the mean time proceed to discharge the duties of the office.

I am, &c
David Holmes

Peter A. Vandorn Esqr.

415

From the Governor to the Secretary of War.

Town of Washington Feby. 7. 1810

Sir,

I received a [illegible] days [illegible] James Neely agent to the [illegible] assistance to remove intruders off the [illegible] lands, near his agency. From good information I [illegible] that [illegible] to five thousand white persons are settled [illegible] the Indian boundary, and that they are determined to remain there in opposition to the laws of the United States, until removed by force. The Indians are daily complaining to the Agent that measures are not taken to remove these lawless intruders. General Hampton is ready to furnish a detachment at my request from this place to perform the service, but believing that the object can be effected with less expense and more convenience to the Government by ordering a detachment from Highwassee I have deemed it proper to refrain from calling upon him until I could receive your instructions upon the subject.

I enclose to you a copy of the Agent's letter to me and also a copy of my answer. In order to quiet the minds of the Indians you will observe that I have authorized the agent to assure them that the intruders should be removed in the course of the ensuing spring or early in the ~~[illegible]~~ summer, and that Col. Russel would have instructions to order them to leave the Indian country without delay.

A quantity of ammunition belonging to the United States, purchased at the time of Col. Burr's expedition to this country was stored with a Mr [illegible] Jeff County, and a number of arms procured on the same occasion I have been informed rem [illegible] the possession of a gentleman at Natc [illegible] led proper to make some disposit [illegible] The ammunition can be mad [illegible] commanding officer of the troops a [illegible] it would be more advantageous to sell a [illegible] public service, consisting chiefly of shot gu [illegible] fowling pieces.

I am Sir
Yr. Ob. Servt.
David Holmes

Hon ble
William Eustis
Secretary of War.

From the Governor to Col. Wooldridge

Town of Washington Feby. 7. 1810

Sir,

I am anxious that the militia of the Territory should be organized with as little delay as possible. By the law passed at the last session of the Legislature upon this subject, each company is to consist of sixty privates. You will in conjunction with Majors Millburn and Davenport, proceed to lay out your Regiment into Captains' Districts, to contain as near that number as may be convenient, and to recommend to me such persons as you may deem proper for company officers. You will also recommend persons to fill the following Staff Offices of the Regiment, towit, One adjutant, one quarter master, one Pay master, one Surgeon and one Surgeon's Mate.

The militia law shall be forwarded to you as soon as it is printed.

I am &c
David Holmes

Col. Wooldridge
of the 5th Regt

From the Governor to Col. Hicks

Town of Washington Feby 7. 1810

Sir,

I am anxious [illegible] militia [illegible] Territory should be organized [illegible] day [illegible]ible. By the law paſsed at the [illegible] of the [illegible]lature upon this subject, each company [illegible] consist of [illegible] privates. You will, in conjunction with Major [illegible] proceed to lay out your Regiment into Captains' [illegible], to contain as near that number as may be convenient, and to recommend to me such persons as you may deem proper for company Officers. You will also recommend persons to fill the following Staff Offices of the Regiment towit, one adjutant, one Quarter Master, one Paymaster, one Surgeon and one Surgeon's Mate.

A copy of the militia law shall be forwarded to you as soon as it is printed.

Col. Benjamin Hicks
of the 10th Regt.

I am &c
David Holmes

From the Governor to General Hampton

Town of Washington Feb: 9. 1810.

Sir,

Understanding that Col. Roſsell will leave this place in a few days for the State of Kentucky and that it will be convenient for him to paſs through the settlements of the intruders upon the Indian lands within the Chickasaw Nation, I have to request that you will instruct him to order these persons, who have thus acted in defiance of a positive law of the United States, to remove immediately from the Indian country, and to inform them that if they should disregard his orders a detachment of troops would be employed in the course of the ensuing ap[illegible] [illegible] ments, and to effect their removal [illegible] umanity induces me to take the [illegible] [illegible] citizens — some of them may pr[illegible] [illegible] h Col. Russell may be instructed [illegible] if eventually it should be necessary [illegible] sures to effect the object, there will exist [illegible] of complaint against the Government.

I have the honor to be
with very great respect
Sir Yr. Ob.
David Holmes.

Genl. Wade Hampton. }
Commanding Mississippi Depmt. }

From the Governor to Col: John J Jones Town of Washington 13th Feby 1810

Sir

The Law for the organization of the Militia passed at the last session of the Legislature, provides that the staff of each Regiment shall consist of one adjutant one quarter master one paymaster one surgeon and surgeons mate, You will therefore in conjunction with Majr Witherspoon recommend persons to fill these offices when you forward your recommendations for company officers

I am Sir
Your obt.
David Holmes

From the Governor to Col Hugh Davis Town of Washington 17th Feby 1810

Sir

When I had the pleasure of being at your House I communicated to you my anxiety [illegible] for the Militia organized with as little delay as possible; the recent information which I have received through the public papers has increased my solicitude upon this subjec and induces me to ur[illegible] to recommend proper pers as soon as possible to fi[illegible] Offices of your Regiment; By the late Law the Regimental Staff is to consist of One Adjutant One Paymaster One Quarter Master On Surgeon and One Surgeon's Mate. At the time you forward your recommendations for company Officers You will also forward the Names of such persons as you may think proper to fill the Staff Offices

I am Sir
Your obt
David Holmes

From the Governor to Majr Fleetwood

Town of Washington
Feby 7 1810

Sir

Your commission as Majr of the 3rd Regiment of the Militia of the Territory will be de=livered to you by Mr Willis, I must urge you to ma out your Recommendations in Conjunction with Co Wood for company Officers as soon as possible, I is my wish to appoint immediately the company Off=cers within the City of Natchez in order that the Patrol Law may be carried into Operation

I am Sir
Your obt
David Holmes

From the Governor to Capt. Wm. [illegible]

Town of Washington
23rd Feby 1810

Sir

[illegible] to you the Commissions for the officers of you[illegible]any, Under the present State of alarm in the [illegible] of Natchez it will be proper to muster your company as soon as possible in order that patrol duty may be regularly performed, I am confident you will attend to this important object

I am Sir
Your obt.
David Holmes

From the Governor to Maj. ~~Hochett~~

Town of Washington
24th Feby 1810

Sir

I enclose to you commissions for two companies of your Battalion conformable to your recommendations, I am extremely anxious to have the Militia Organized under the present Law and calculate upon your activity in completing the recommendations for the 2nd Regt. with as little delay as possible

I am Sir
Your obt.
David Holmes

194 From the Govr to Col. Woolridge of the 5th Regt

Town of Washington 9th March (1810)

Sir

[illegible] will [illegible] upon you for the purpose of receiving [illegible] recommendations for the Officers of your Regiment, [illegible] necessity to have the [illegible] organized under the present Law necessary with my knowledge of the proceedings of the General Government, [illegible] almost indicates a certainty of our being Called [illegible] to furnish a proportion of force to maintain and defend the National Rights

Be assured Sir I have full confidence in your Patriotism and calculate much upon your exertions to have your Regiment organized with as little delay as possible

I am Sir with Great respect
Your Obdt Svt
David Holmes

From the Governor to Majr John Haney
Aid de camp to the Comr in Chf

Town of Washington 20th March (1810)

Sir

Your letter of the 17th Instt I received this evening. Conformable to your recommendation a Commission will be forwarded to Mr Harper as a Justice of the Peace by this Mail, and also Commissions of the Peace for three of the Gentlemen on the list which I find have been omitted, —

From my knowledge of the proceedings of the General Government I entertain no doubt but that we shall be called upon to furnish a proportion of force to be in readiness to act if necessary in defence of our Rights, I am therefore extremely Solicitous to have the Militia organized in your part of the Territory with as little delay as possible, This induces me to forward to you as many Commissions as I suppose will be sufficient for the three Regiments to wit for the 5th Regiment 8 Captains 8 Lieutenants and 8 Ensigns 1 Adjutant 1 Quarter Master and 1 Paymaster, for the [illegible] Regiment 5 Captains as many Lieutenants [illegible] officers as for the 5th Regt. For 9[illegible] commissions as for the 8th Regt. [illegible] forward to you their recommendations [illegible] you [illegible] up the commissions agreeably thereto, [illegible] and d[illegible] that is left Blank — I will thank y[illegible]fy the [illegible] of the arrangement lest my letters to them [illegible] miscarry — You will date the Commissions on the day they are delivered and keep a list of the persons appointed, which you will transmit to me by the first opportunity — Three commissions for the 8th Regiment you will find filled with the names and dates it was done conformable to Col. Carsons recommendation — This mode I have adopted of having the commissions delivered thro: you will expedite the business and cannot be productive of any inconvenience as the recommendations of the field officers would Govern me in making the appointments — Mr Pierce has resigned his commission as Majr. and also that of Coroner, from my Memorandum it appears he was recommended for the latter Mr Joseph P Kennedy is now appointed Majr of the 8th Regt —

I rely much upon your exertions to have the Militia organized as soon as possible, The Mail Carrier will deliver you 24 copies of the Militia Law, being a full proportion for the three Regiments of the number directed to be printed

I am Sir with great
Respect Yr Obt &c
David Holmes

P.S.

You will find in the package Majr. Kennedys commission which I will thank you to forward to him— I suppose the Number of Copies of the Militia Law will afford one for ~~y~~ each company, You will however distribute them in the way [illegible] may Judge best calculated to make the contents genera[illegible]ng [illegible] Officers and privates

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From the Governor to Colo. Callo[illegible]

Town of Washington 10th March 1810

Sir

Your letter of the 3rd Inst. was received this Evening. The early attention which you have bestowed upon the business of organizing your Regiment merits my approbation— My Anxiety to have the Militia in your part of the Country organized increases with my knowledge of the proceedings of the General Government, every measure almost indicates a certainty of our being called upon to hold in readiness a Force for actual Service proportionate to our Numbers— In order to facilitate this important object I have forwarded to Majr Hanes my aid de Camp a sufficient Number of Commissions for your Regiment He is instructed to deliver them to you conformable to your Recommendations

I am Sir &c

David Holmes

From the Governor to Colo. Carson of the 8th Regt.

Town of Washington 20th March 1810

Sir

Your letter of the 4th Inst. I received this evening, Convinced as I am that we shall be called upon by the General Government to furnish a proportion of Military force to be held in readiness for actual service, I cannot be otherwise than anxious to have the Militia in your part of the Territory Organized with as little delay as possible. Your [illegible] therefore to the duties of your office would [illegible] When your recommendations are made [illegible] forwarded to Majr. Hanes my Aid de [illegible] your Commissions Conformable [illegible] has been made in order to expedite the [illegible] it [illegible] be productive of any inconvenience as I should [illegible] in making the Appointments by the recommendations of the Field Officers — Joseph D Kennedy is Appointed Majr. of the 8th Regt. his Commission and the Commissions for the Company officers mentioned in your letter Are forwarded to Majr. Hanes

I am Sir your obt.
David Holmes

Town of Washington 28th March
1810

From the Governor to Colo. James Patton
of the 9th Regt.

Sir

My anxiety to have the Militia Organized increases with my knowledge of the proceedings of the General Government. Every Measure almost indicates a Certainty of our being Called upon to hold in Readiness a force for actual Service proportionate to our Numbers. In order to facilitate this important object I have forwarded to Majr. Hanes my Aid de Camp a Sufficient Number of Commissions for your Regt. He is instructed to deliver them Conformable to your recommendations

I am Sir
[illegible] &c
David Holmes

From the Govr To His Excellency
Governor Claiborne

Washington 22nd
March 1810

Sir

Upon the receipt of your letter of the 13th of January I requested Mr. Thos. H Williams to examine the Office for the Deed from Mr. Calvit, for the Land on which Fort Dearborn is situated, . A few days before Mr. Williams left this place he informed me that no such paper Could be found on the files, and that he would Communicate this information to you upon his arrival in your City — It is possible the Deed may have been left in Col^o Girault's Office where I presume it is recorded I shall have an examination made there and if it Can be found, send you either the Original or a Copy by the Next Mail — The best thanks I can offer you for your friendly expressions of concern for my health and happiness is to declare that I know them to be sincere and that I reciprocate them from my heart

I have the honor to be
Sir your ob^t
David Holmes

Since writing the above an Opportunity

account of having Col° Girault's office examined for the Bond, It does not appear that it was ever lodged there, nor is a copy of it to be found upon the Records

D H

From the Gover[illegible] of War

[illegible] Washington April 4. 1810

Sir

I have this day drawn a Bill of Exchange upon you in favour [illegible] David Berry Interpreter to the Chactaw Indians for seventy five dollars being the amount of his salary due for the quarter ending the first day of the present month.

I have the Honor to
be Sir Your Obt. Servt.

Honbl. William Eustis
Secretary of War } (Signed) David Holmes.

From the Governor to Colonel Caller

Town of Washington April 9th 1810

Sir

Your letter of the 30th Ulto. I received this morning. I have forwarded to Major Hanes a Commission for a Surgeon and Surgeons Mate to your Regiment which he will fill up conformable to your recommendation. I have also enclosed to you the Commission of the Quartermaster, which you will deliver to him.

I am Sir with great
respect your Obt. Servt

Col. James Caller
of the 6th Regt } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Sheriff of Baldwin County

Town of Washington 9 April 1810

Sir, I received your letter of the 22nd Ulto. with a Bond enclosed for the faithfull performance of your duty as Sheriff of Baldwin County.

I am Sir with respect yr. Obt. Servt

Mr. Benjamin Baldwin
Sheriff of Baldwin County } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor, to Major Hanes, Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief

[illegible] of Washington 9th April 1810

Dear Sir,

I [illegible] in my last letter [illegible] you that Major Kennedy's [illegible]mision was enclosed with the other comissions forwarded by the mail this was a mistake, it was sent under a separate envelope and directed to himself. The bearer will deliver you a package containing commissions for a Surgeon and Surgeon's Mate for each Regiment. When you forward to me a list of the appointments, I will thank you to keep a duplicate, lest thro' some accident I might not receive your letter.

I am
Sir with great respect
Your Obt Servt.

Major John Hanes

(Signed) David Holmes.

Head Quarters Town of Washington
General Orders 20 April 1810

Captain Bruner is ordered to muster his Company of Infantry on Monday the 23rd Instant, at 10 O'Clock A.M. for the purpose of guarding to the place of execution the two unfortunate prisoners now in the jail of Adams County under sentence of Death. The Captain will respect any directions he may receive from the Sheriff relative to the preservation of Peace and good order upon this melancholy occasion.

By order of the Commander in Chief }
Henri Sturges Aid de Camp }

David Holmes

Head Quar[illegible] Town of Washington

General Orders 24th April 1810

[illegible] ner is ordered to detail a gaurd of one Serge[illegible] privates, to conduct in safety to the City of Natch[illegible] convicted of Forgery and who are to receive at [illegible] ral Punishment conformably to the the Sentence of the Superior Court, The Commander of the gaurd will consider himself under the Orders of the Sheriff.

By Order of the Commander in Chief }
Minor Sturges Aid de Camp }

David Holmes

From the Governor to the }
Sheriff of Claiborne County } Town of Washington.
26th April 1810.

Sir, I have no objections to your making the journey you contemplate to the State of Kentucky. The duties of your Office I presume will be faithfully discharged by your deputy for whose conduct you will of course be responsible. Agreeably therefore to your request you have my permission to absent yourself from the Territory for ten or twelve weeks.

I am Sir with respect
Your obt Servt

Joseph Briggs Esqr }
Sheriff of Claibone County }
(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Col. Hicks

Town of Washington 27 April 1810

Sir

Your letter of the 12th Instant was not received by me until Yesterday - The Commissions for the 10th Regiment have been made out conformable to your recommendations and are herewith forwarded, The law authorizes an appointment of Staff Officers for each Regiment, to consist of one

Adjutant, one Paymaster, one Quartermaster, one Surgeon and one Surgeons mates, as soon as you have selected persons proper to fill these Offices; you will transmit to me their names, in Order that Commissions [illegible] forwarded [illegible] them.

The Uniform for [illegible] Regiments of Militia will be determined upon, [illegible] made known by a General Order whenever the organiz[illegible] under the late Law is complete.

There are no public Arms belonging to the Territory in my possession or under my control; it is therefore out of my power to comply with your wishes upon this subject.

The Solicitude you have shewn for the well organization of your Regiment becomes a patriotic Officer, and merits my approbation.

I am Sir with Respect
your Obt Sert.

Liet. Col. Hicks
10th Regiment.

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Andrew Marschalk.

Town of Washington
13 May 1810:

Sir,

I have received information from the War Department, that a number of stands of arms of different descriptions (belonging to the United States, are now in your possession! The Secretary of War has given to me certain instructions respecting this public property, which makes it my duty to request that you will furnish me with a report of the number of stands of arms that were committed to your care, the several descriptions of which they consist, and the condition they are in at present;) Any further information you can give me upon this subject will be very acceptable.

I am sir with respect
your Obt Sert

Major Andrew Marschalk,

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Harry Toul[illegible] Esquire

Town of Washington 17 May 1810.

Sir,

Col. S[illegible] me a few days ago your letter of the 15th ult., wherein [illegible] forward to you under his care a Box of the Statutes [illegible] ates assistants for the use of your [illegible] of the [illegible] that the Colo has been disappointed in ma[illegible] for the transmission of these Books which he contemplated at the time your letter was written. This information I received from him last evening.

The Laws passed by the Legislature at their last session have not yet been published in the form of a pamphlet; I expect however to receive them from the press in a short time, when I shall forward to you a copy, conformable to your request.

The circumstance of my having delayed to acknowledge the civility of your letter of the 23rd December last, I assure you Sir was not owing to a want of that respect which is so justly due to your character and public situation. The subjects to which it related had been acted upon before it came to hand. The act for dividing Washington County passed prior to the date of your letter, and the principal civil and Military Officers for the respective Counties were appointed within a few days after the Passage of the law. The business would not have admitted of delay. The information which governed me in making the appointments was derived from the best source within my reach; your aid would certainly have been useful, and I assure you acceptable,

Before Mr. Secretary Williams was appointed Collector of the Port of Orleans I had expectations of being able to visit Washington County in the course of the ensuing Summer, whether it will yet be in my Power to make this visit depends upon the time when a Successor to Mr. Williams shall arrive in this Country.

Permit me Sir to declare that a personal acquaintance with you would give me much satisfaction and that I shall at all times be happy to hear from you.

Sir with very great
respect your obt Servt

Judge Toulmin } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Major John Hanes

Town of Washington 17 May 1810.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th Ulto was handed to me a few days ago by Colo Sparks; The progress that has been made in organizing the Militia in your part of the Territory is satisfactory and your attention to the business merits and meets with my unqualified approbation.

The papers which you left with me last winter relate chiefly to the conduct of Mr Henry: they contain also the proceedings of a meeting of the Citizens of Washington County who convened for the purpose of giving instructions to their representatives in the Legislature on the subject of dividing the County; upon a cursory view of these papers I do not perceive that Col.o Caller is materially interested or implicated by any of them, except what appears, in the copy of a deposition, the original of which is stated by the paper to be in the hands of R. H. Gilmer. If he wishes to have a copy of this I will transmit it to you by the Mail, I would rather retain the papers you left with me until I see you, which probably may be in the course of the ensuing Summer, provided a successor to Mr Williams the late Secretary arrives here in time for me to make a visit to your part of the Territory before Autumn.

I [illegible]m Sir with sincere regard
[illegible]ur Obt Servt
[illegible]avid Holmes

Major John Ham[illegible]

From the Governor to the [illegible] Agent to the Chikasaws.

Town of Washington 20 May 1810.

Sir,

I embrace the opportunity by Mr Winston of forwarding to you a copy of the opinion given by the Attorney General of this Territory in the case of Lattimore whose conduct you represented to me some time ago.

Your letter of 14th Instant on the subject of the Intruders upon the Indian lands, is now before me. In answer to it, I repeat to you what I formerly stated, that the Subject is before the Secretary at War, and that I entertain no doubt but that measures will be taken to remove the Intruders in the course of the ensuing Summer, you may represent this as my firm Opinion to the Indians in any answer you may have occasion to make to their remonstrances.

I am Sir with Great
respect your Obt
Servt David Holmes

J Neelly Esqr
Agent to the
Chikasaws. } (Signed)

From the Governor to the Secretary of War

Town of Washington 23rd May 1810

Sir,

From your letter of the 10th Ulto which I duly received I am induced to believe that my letter to you of the 7th Feby must have miscarried. I therefore inclose ~~to you~~ a transcript, You will observe that I asked for instructions not only respecting the Public Arms stored in Natchez, but also respecting a quantity of ammunition lodged with a Mr. Green of Jefferson County.

The intruders [illegible] continue upon the Indian lands which is a source of constant murmur and complaint on the part of the Indians. I have instructed the Chikasaw Agent to repeat to them the assurances which I formerly authorized him to make upon this subject,

I am Sir with Great
respect
your Obt Servt

Hon. William Eustis
Secretary of War.
(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Town of Washington 30. May 1810.

Sir,

Until within a few days nothing had occurred in respect to the Government of this Territory (since the adjournment of the Legislature) of sufficient importance to be made the subject of a communication to your Department, I have occasionally written to the Secretary at war upon business considered under his immediate superintendency, and have endeavored to give him all the information relative thereto that I thought might be useful. The chief object of this letter is to state a transaction that took place four or five days ago within the Territory of West Florida, and which may be made a subject of communication to the Government of the United States, either direct, or through me as Governor of this Territory. I therefore deem it a duty to apprize you of the character of the transaction by laying before you the circumstances of the case as far as they have come to my knowledge. It appears that Captn Russel of the Army

had in his employment a Soldier belonging to the line, whom he kep
in the capacity of a Servant, this man whose name is Jeremia
Kelly, deserted from [illegible]nt near this Place on the
night of [illegible] 24th Inst [illegible]mediately made for the
Spanish Territory, he [illegible] Rupel of a Horse and a
consider[illegible] took with him, he was
advertised as a deserter and a reward of one hundred and fifty
dollars offered to any person who would apprehend him, this
induced two men (inhabitants of this Town) to pursue Kelly
into the Spanish Territory; they came up with him at a Public
House about five miles below the line of Demarcation, siezed
him in the presence of several persons, Citizens of West Florida
and brought him back unmolested to the Cantonment, altho' the
conduct of these men in seizing the culprit in the Spanish Territory
cannot be considered otherwise than an infraction of rights, which
the United States have deemed proper to respect, yet, as the deserter
had committed an atrocious Felony it is possible the Governor
of the Province under the present state of things may not think
the subject worthy of his interposition, should any represent=
ation however be made to me respecting the affair you shall
be immediately informed of it, In the mean while I will
indeavor to preserve harmony upon our confines and to prevent
as far as the powers with which I am invested will enable
me similar occurrences,

I have the honor to be with
Great respect Sir
Your Obt Servt

Hon:
Robert Smith
Secretary of State. } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Silas Dinsmoor Esqr

Town of Washington 4th June 1810

Sir,

Mr [illegible] has appl[illegible] to me to recommend him as a fit Ba[illegible] one of the [illegible]ds for keeping a House of entertainm[illegible] public road [illegible] passes thro' the Chactaw c[illegible] State of [illegible] From representations that ha[illegible] made to me re[illegible]g the character of Mr Osburn [illegible]lieve him to be an honest upright man and intitled to the confidence necessarily reposed in those who are permitted to occupy stands in the Indian Country. You will therefore consider this letter as my recommendation in favor of Mr Osburn.

I am Sir With respect
Your Obt Servt

Silas Dinsmoor
U.S. Agent, Chactaws } (Signed) David Holmes

David Holmes Governor of the Missisippi Territory.

To all Persons who shall see these Presents.

Whereas it has been represented to me by the Honble Harry Toulmin one of the Superior Judges of this Territory for the District of Washington, that two Indians one of them known by the name of Illechetubba and the other called Jim, were committed to prison by him upon the Charge of having murdered an Indian called Cheaubeh within the jurisdiction of this Territory, and Whereas the aforesaid Judge has made known to me the Circumstances attending this case, and declared that in his opinion it merits the interposition of the Executive authority. Now therefore know ye that I having duly considered the circumstances attending the transaction upon which the Charge against the aforesaid Prisoners was founded [illegible]so the statements made by the Judge a[illegible]aid. I[illegible] of the Powers in me vested as Go[illegible]nor of the [illegible] Pardon the aforesaid Illecha[illegible] [illegible]t all Punishment or Pe[illegible] [illegible] subjected themselves under [illegible]mitting [illegible] Crime with which they are charg[illegible]nd are now in [illegible]nfinement.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
Set my hand and the seal of the Territory
(L S) at the Town of Washington the fifth day
of June in the year of our Lord Eighteen
hundred and ten, and of the Independence
of the United States the thirty fourth.

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Harry Toulmin Esquire
Town of Washington 5th June 1810.

Sir, Your letter of the 26th Ulto was not handed to me until this morning. Your opinion upon the case of the two Indians who have been committed for murder is conformable to my own. To punish them under our laws might be attended with unpleasant consequences. I have therefore enclosed to you a Pardon. It will be proper however before they are released that they should be made sensible that they have been guilty of an infraction of our Laws, and that in future such conduct will not be tolerated

I am Sir with great respect
& Esteem Your Ob. Servt.

The Honble Harry Toulmin
Judge district Washington } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Colo. Caller

Town of Washington
7th June 1810.

Sir, Conformable [illegible] I enclose to you a Commission for [illegible] Baker junr. as Ensign of the 6th Regiment in the place of Ensign [illegible] resigned

I am with great respect
Your Obt Servt.

Colo. James Caller (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Judge Toulmin

Town of Washington 15. June 1810

Sir,

I enclose to you duplicates of my letter of the 5th Instant, and of the Pardon granted to the two Indians Illechetubba and Jim. the Originals were forwarded by the last mail Via Orleans: this precaution I deem proper lest by some accident the original papers may have miscarried. The direct mail from Fort St Stephens to this place which I presume was established chiefly for the convenience of the Government, is rendered almost useless by the unaccommodating conduct of the carrier, I believe there is no certain day fixed for his arrival, it's therefore by mere accident we can know of his being in this place, to obviate this difficulty I have requested the carrier to call at the Office, and notify me of his arrival, and when he intended to depart, my request however has been entirely disregarded: The man who was last here with the mail, and by whom I wished to forward the originals of the inclosed duplicates, was expressly directed by Mr. Dinsmoor, and the Post master, to call at the Government Office to know whether I had any despatches for your part of the Territory. Notwithstanding this he p[illegible] on his journey without giving m[illegible]e least [illegible]s at that time engaged in ans[illegible]ring your [illegible] 5th instant put into my hands th[illegible] morning [illegible] returned from Natchez. Permit [illegible] sir to request that [illegible]ou will direct the Carrier in future to call at the Office and give notice of his arrival and also the time that he intends to depart: this will not detain him five minutes, but will be productive of much convenience to the Government.

I am Sir with great
respect Your obt
Sert.

Honble. Judge Toulmin

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Thomas H Williams Esqr.

Town of Washington 16. June 1810.

Dear Sir,

I have this day received from the Secretary of the Treasury a letter dated the 21st Ultimo, inclosing instructions relative to the taking of the Census, and also a letter upon the same subject from the Secretary of State. Several Packages containing instructions, forms &c. came at the same time under cover to the Secretary of the Territory. The law makes it the duty of the Secretaries of the several Territories to superintend the taking of the Census, but where there is no Secretary the business then devolves upon the Governor.

Mr. Gallatin has directed me to ascertain whether it is your intention to accept the Collectorship of Orleans, or to retain your office as Secretary. If you determine in favor of the latter, you should loose no time in making the appointments requisite to carry the law into operation.

The assistants are to commence the enumeration on the first monday in Augu[illegible]ext. From the extent of our Territory and the [illegible] of the m[illegible] I am convinced it will not be pos[illegible] make [illegible]cessary arrangements before that period, through the [illegible]nel of the Post Office.

I am Sir [illegible] respect
Your Obt. Servt.

Tho. H. Williams Esqr.

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Secretary of the Treasury

Town of Washington 18 June 1810

Dear Sir/ Your letter of the 21st Ultimo inclosing instructions relative to the taking of the Census came to hand the 16th Instant, the day after the mail for Orleans was closed, so that no immediate opportunity offered of writing to Mr. Williams upon the subject, Unless I shall be able to meet with a private conveyanc I cannot calculate upon receiving Mr. Williams' answe before the 4th July. this I am fearful will not leave sufficient time to make arrangements to commence the enumeration before the first monday in August. If we depend upon the Post Office establishment as the Channel of communication it is certain that the appointments and instructions cannot reach the distant Counties before that period, not to take into calculation the casualties of persons who may be appointed refusing to accept, or the miscarriage of letters which is common upon these distant routs.

There is no direct mail to Madison, all letters are obliged to be forwarded to Nashville, where in a great measure they depend upon accidental conveyances to the county.

It is true we have a direct mail to Washington County but it makes a trip in[illegible] once in the month, under these circumstances you will [illegible] difficulty of commencing the buſiness on the day [illegible] by law. Every thing how=ever wi[illegible]ny power [illegible] me to guard against acci=dent, a[illegible] to accomp[illegible] the object. I do not believe it is Mr. Wi[illegible]s intentn [illegible] the duties of his offices in this Territory. I shall therefore immediately look round for proper Persons to act as aſsistants, in order that no time may be lost,

I have the honor to be
With great respect Dr. Sir
Your Obt. Sert.
(Signed) David Holmes

Hon
Albert Gallatin
Secretary of the Treasury

From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Town of Washington 18. June 1810

Sir,

Your letter of the 17th Ultimo enclosing a copy of the law providing for the third Census, came to hand the 16th instant: at the same time I received your letter of the same date directed to the Secretary of the Territory, with all the papers mentioned as accompanying it, except one copy of the Secretary's return: you say that two copies, are forwarded, there is but one to be found among the Papers. I have written to Mr. Williams, to know whether he intends to accept the Collectorship of Orleans or to resume the duties of his Offices in this Territory. If he determines in favor of the former, the duty of superintending the taking of the Census then devolves upon me, should this be the case, I shall use my best endeavors to arrange the buſineſs so as to enable the aſsistants to commence the enumeration on the first monday in August next conformable to the law, but I am fearful that the time will be too limited;

nothing however I assure you Sir on my part shall be wanting to accomplish the object.

I have the honor to be with
[illegible]at respec[illegible] your
Obt Ser[illegible]
(S[illegible] Da[illegible] Holmes

Hon
Robert Smith
Secretary of State

From the Governor to Col. Cushing

Town of Washington June 20th
1810.

Sir, Burwell Vick Esqr. one of the Justices of the Quorum for Adams County, has exhibited a complaint in writing to me, stating that he issued a process against certain persons attached to the Army of the United States, and now within the Cantonment which you have the hono to command, that the Officer authorized to serve the precept was resisted in the exercise of his duty, by a military officer's refusing to permit him to take out of the Cantonment the persons he had arrested by virtue of the warrant. I presume there must have been some mistake in this transaction, as I cannot persuade my=self to think, that any Officer would so far forget his duty as wilfully to resist the civil authority, I request that you will have this affair enquired into, and that in the mean time you will afford the Officer who is the bearer of this letter, every rightful facility in the execution of his duty.

I have the Honor
to be &c

Col Thomas Cushing

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Tow[illegible]ington 20 June 1810

Sir,

From info[illegible]ave to ~~by~~ received concernin[illegible] present [illegible]e situa[illegible] of the inhabitants of We[illegible] to think occurrences may take p[illegible] the United States, or at least to their [illegible]ent Territories. For some time past the Commandants have refused to exercise any authority in important cases, whether they related to general Policy, or existed between individuals. The power of Government has been so much relaxed in every respect, that a sense of common danger has induced some of the inhabitants to establish a kind of neighbourhood police, which having no fixed rule for its guide, is consequently in its operation inefficient, and in many instances unjust. This state of things has become alarming to the most respectable part of the community, and they are determined, I believe to endeavor to bring about a change. Unfortunately from the mixed nature of their population, they are divided in opinion as to the means best calculated to insure the safety of society. There is distinctly marked, an American party, a British party, a Spanish party, and until of late, there existed a French party. The wish of the American party is, that the Province may become a part of the United States, the most prudent of them however, are not in favor of taking immediate steps to effect this object, lest by failing of success they might hereafter be punished for the attempt, yet it is probable they would incur the risk, rather than to be subjected to any foreign power, or to encounter the perils of anarchy, and in the prospect of either event [illegible] I do not doubt but that they would solicit the protection of the United States. It is the wish of the British party to see the country under the Power of Great Britai[illegible]nd they would readily aid any project to effect that purpose, which might promise su[illegible] they profess however to support the right of the Spanish [illegible]nerally act [illegible]unison with the Spanish party. The French [illegible]en ordered [illegible]ve the country, and most of them have ac[illegible] removed in[illegible] Orleans Territory. This measure (w[illegible] will [illegible] in the enclosed paper) has occasioned some ferment: the French [illegible]aten to return reinforced and to take satisfaction for the injury, but I do not believe they will make the attempt. The Proclamation commanding them to leave the country I understand was issued at Baton Rouge. I have not as yet been able to procure a copy, but there is no doubt of the fact.

A great portion of the Population of West Florida consists of Slaves, and persons without character, or the means of procuring a comfortable living: What effect would be produced by a state of anarchy and confusion there, upon the adjacent Territories of the United States, is a question worthy of consideration. If in the struggle that portion of the Population (which I have described) should overcome the well disposed and respectable part of the community, we shall be placed in a very unpleasant if not in a precarious situation as respects our Slaves. There is nothing to be apprehended from the interference of any foreign nation except that of Great Britain, she may be solicited by a party to extend Protection to the people thus left almost destitute of Government, how she would act in such a case, you are best able to determine. In the event either of a state of anarchy ensuing or that of the interference of a foreign nation, I presume the United States must be considered in some degree interested. From this belief alone I have been induced to communicate to you upon the subject and not from a wish to o[illegible]de upon the Government any speculative opinions of [illegible] Whether it is expected from me [illegible] will be ac[illegible] the Government that I should [illegible] any notice [illegible] affairs [illegible] Territory, not in the poſseſ[illegible] the U[illegible] [illegible] not know, should it however be an [illegible] the Government to be accurately informed of any [illegible]tant occurrences that may take place in West Florida, I will exert myself to procure the best information within my power.

I have the honor to be
Sir your Obt. Sert
(Signed) David Holmes

Hon Robert Smith
Secretary of State

From the Governor to Tho. H. Williams Esqr &c

Town of Washington 22 June 1810

Dear Sir,

I enclose to you a duplicate of a letter, which I wrote to you on the 16th Instant, (it was forwarded by a private conveyance) since then I have concluded to enter upon the duties of taking the Census immediately, from a conviction that if I wait for your answer it will be impoſsible to carry the law into operation conformable to its provisions. The law imperatively directs, that the enumeration shall commence on the first monday in August next, I believe it to be very doubtful whether with the best exertions I am capable of making, the neceſsary arrangements in the distant Counties, can be completed before that period. If you should ultimately determine to resume the duties of your Offices here and to engage in superintending the taking of the census, whatever arrangements I may have previously made will be no disadvantage to you in progreſsing with the busineſs.

I am with great regard
your Obt. Sert
(Signed) David Holmes

Tho. H. Williams Esqr.

No 5

From the Governor to Timothy Merrick

Town of Washington
[illegible] June 1810

Sir,

You are hereby inf[illegible]ed that your [illegible]mission as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Adams [illegible]ed

[illegible] Your
Obt Servt

Mr. T. Merrick &c

David Holmes

A transcript of the foregoing) from page 409 was transmitted to the Secretary of State July 18. 1810

Note Timothy Merrick was committed to the Jail of Adams County for Debt, and obtained the privilege of the Prison Bounds, a question arose whether he could legally exercise the functions of a Justice of the Peace while thus confined, Some Gentlemen of Law Knowledge were consulted upon the Subject, who without giving a positive Opinion as to the illegality of Mr. Merricks Conduct, declared that they considered it improper, and derogatory to the Dignity of the Office Mr. Merrick having refused to refrain from acting in his Official Capacity during his confinement or to resign his Commission, was dismissed

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From the Governor to Thomas Malone Clerk of the Superior Court of Washington County

Town of Washing
3 July 1810

The Bond which came to hand under cover of your letter of the 24 Ultimo is in every respect correct except as to the amount of the Penalty. The law requires that clerks of the Superior Courts should give Bond in the Penal sum of seven thousand dollars; I therefore return the one which you inclosed to me and request that you will have another executed conformable to the act entitle "an act establishing Superior Courts and declaring the powers of the "Territorial Judges" See page 126.

I am Sir
Your Obt Servt

Th[illegible] (Signed) David Holmes

[illegible] Governor to the Secretary of War.

Town of Washington July 9th 1810

Sir I have this day drawn a bill of exchange upon you in favor of David Berry (Interpreter to the Chaktaw Indians) for seventy five dollars being the amount of his salary for the quarter ending the first day of the present month.

I am Sir Your
obedient Servant

Honble
William Eustis
Secretary of War

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Secretary of State.

Town of Washington 11 July 1810

Sir In my letter of the 20th Ultimo: upon the subject of the political situation of West Florida I expreſsed an opinion that a determination existed among the people to endeavour to bring about a change in the Government. That opinion has been confirmed by a movement recently made towards effecting the object. On the first day of this month a considerable number of the inhabitants of the four upper districts which compose that part of the Province called Feliciana, met pursuant to a notice at the farm of Mr Sterling about fifteen miles from the Miſsiſsippi and about ten from the line of Demarcation. The ostensible object of the meeting was to take into consideration the State of the Province; and to adopt some mode of rendering their situation more secure against both foreign invasion and internal disturbances. Those who had been active in procuring the assemblage, submitted to the consideration of the People a project previously [illegible] which was agreed to by almost an unanimous vote; [illegible] five hundred persons which I have been informed was about the number present, there were but eleven who dissented. Conformable to the plan thus adopted the people proceeded immediately to elect from among themselves, four persons to act as representatives of the four upper districts. The names of the persons chosen are, John Rhea, John Johnston, William Barrow & John Mills, all of them wealthy and respectable men. It is made their duty in the first place to communicate with the people of the other districts in the Province, and to endeavour to prevail upon them, to adopt a similar Course by electing from each remaining district (being six in number) one representative. This Council which will consist of ten members (Provided the inhabitants come into the measure) are invested with general Powers, to be exercised in any way they may think best calculated to promote the good of the Community. The necessity of dismissing the Spanish Officers was not suggested to the People at the meeting, on the other hand it was tacitly understood that the Council when organized, would suffer them to remain in office, provided they acknowledged the new authority and consented to be controlled and regulated thereby. You may readily conjecture how this business will ultimately eventuate. I am satisfied from a knowledge of the sentiments of some of the most respectable inhabitants that the whole proceeding may be considered as an incipient to the more decisive and important measure of asking the protection of the United States. It is true that [illegible] the inhabitants would regret [illegible] see this step ta[illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] attachment to the [illegible]ish Governm[illegible] and other[illegible] from personal causes, but a [illegible] majo[illegible] of the respectable and wealthy, think of lo[illegible] [illegible] other power for protection.

In con[illegible] upon this subject I have thought it my duty to be extremely guarded, and have avoided in every instance to express an opinion as to the course that the government of the United States would pursue in relation to the affairs of Florida under any circumstances.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Sir your obedient
Servant

Honble
Robert Smith
Secretary of State

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Henry Green

Town of Washington 13 July 1810

Sir,

Be pleased to deliver to Mr L. Birkhill Brigade Quarter master, all the ammunition belonging to the United States, now in your possession.

I am your obedient
Servant

Mr Henry Green
Greenville

Signed David Holmes

From the Governor to Captain Robert Semple

Town of Washington 17 July
1810

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 5th Inst. by Doct. Davidson, containing your resignation of the office of Justice of the Quorum for Wilkinson County [illegible] Dawson has been appointed to supply the vacancy. While I regret that it does not comport with your convenience to serve longer in this capacity, I must request that you will accept of a Commission in the Military line. I am very desirous that a Troop of Cavalry should be organized in your County and have been informed that the object can be easily accomplished, provided you will accept of the Command. I therefore forward to you by Doct. Davidson a Commission as Captain of Cavalry, and request that you will recommend proper persons to fill the subaltern appointments.

I am with great
respect Sir your
obedient servant

Capt. Robert Semple

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Major Kanes

Town of Washington 17 July
1810

Sir,

I received your letter of the 23rd Ultimo with the papers mentioned as accompanying it. The Laws passed at the last Session have not been printed, I have some expectation of receiving them in four or five weeks, when I shall embrace the earliest opportunity of transmitting the proportionate number of Copies for Washington District. This delay which has been productive of much inconvenience throughout the Territory was in some measure occasioned by the terms of the Co[illegible] made a Committee of the Legislature with the [illegible] engaged [illegible] do the work. I shall expect to hea[illegible] you if any important occur=rence[illegible] in your quarter of the Country.

I am Sir your obedient
Servant

Major John Hawes (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Silas Dinsmoor Esqr.

Town of Washington 17 July 1810

Sir,

Mr. Talbot Arthur wishes to occupy one of the stands for keeping a house of entertainment on the Public road that passes through the Chaktaw nation, to the State of Tennessee, and has produced to me satisfactory testimonials of his being entitled to the confidence necessarily reposed in those who are permitted to occupy stands in the Indian Country, you will therefore consider this as my recommendation in his favor.

I am &c

Silas Dinsmoor Esqr
U S agent to the Chaktaws } (Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the Secretary of State

Town of Washington 18. July 1810.

Sir,

Conformable to the Ordinance for the Government of this Territory I have the honour to transmit to you by the mail a copy of the executive correspondence for the half year ending the thirtieth day of June 1810.

I have the honor to be
your obedient servant

Honble Robert Smith
Secretary of State } Signed David Holmes

By David Holmes Governor of the
Mississippi Territory

A Proclamation

Whereas there exists good cause to believe [illegible] a murder has been committed upon the body of a man who[illegible]se was fou on the 11th Instant in the County of Wilkinson between the farm of Col.o Hugh Davis and Mr Pope, and Whereas there are no circumstances known that attaches suspicion to any particular person. Now therefore, to the end, that the perpetrator or perpetrators of this attrocious act may be brought to justice, I do hereby offer a reward of two hundred dollars, to any person who will apprehend and lodge in any jail of this Territory, the person or persons, who may have committed the murder aforesaid; And I do hereby enjoin all officers and other good citizens to aid and assist in discovering and securing the said murderer or murderers;

Given under my hand and
the Seal of the Territory, at the
Town of Washington, this twenty
third day of July, in the year
of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and ten, and
of the independence of the
United States, the Thirty fifth.

Seal

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Judge Toulmin

[illegible] Town of Washington July 30 1

Sir, I have th[illegible]ant recei[illegible] letter of the 21st insta[illegible] you on [illegible] 5th of [illegible] in answer to yours of the 26th [illegible]ed at [illegible]me time a Pardon for the two Indian[illegible] of June I again wrote to you and enclosed a duplicate of the Pardon neither of these letters are noted in your last as received - I presume therefore they have miscarried. The Presidents Pardon however supersedes the necessity of my acting upon the subject. The aid which you have so cheerfully afforded in carrying into operation the Law for taking the Census merits a special acknowledgement from myself, and evidences that disposition to promote the public interest which comports with your character

The letter from the Governor of West Florida which you state to have transmitted to me, never came to hand. The only information I have received upon the subject, to which I suppose it relates is contained in your letter now before me. I sincerely hope there exists no cause to apprehend that any party is forming in your part of the Territory to commit unlawful outrages or aggressions upon the adjacent province, the attempt would ruin the individuals who might engage in it - injure the reputation of the country, and be productive of much mischief. The Government of the United States would discountenance such an assumption of authority by all the means within their power.

I regret extremely that the Commissioners for Washington County have so long neglected to perform the duty assigned to them, and sincerely hope that they will come to a determination without much further delay. From what I understand

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the points upon which they differ are not interesting to the People generally, I shall not have time to copy the law and forward it by this mail, otherwise I should have [illegible] objection to adopt the course you suggest.

I am with great
Esteem & respect your
Obedient servant

The Honble
Harry Toulmin } (Signed) David Holmes

P. S. I send by the bearer $8.67 the amount of the Postage on the Packages relative to the Census.

D. H.

From the Governor to Colo. Collier

Town of Washington 31. July
1810.

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th was received a few days ago. The one which you state to have written to me some time ago announcing your intention to resign the Command of the 6th Regiment, never came to hand. It gives me much satisfaction to learn, that harmony prevails among the Officers of your Regiment, and I regret that you should think of retiring from the Command. The present state of the foreign relations of the Government of the United States is certainly not the most favourable to peace, and I trust upon further reflection you will change your determination; Should you however continue in the same opinion the mode more proper of filling the Vacancy that your resignation will occasion, cannot be consistently adopted. The senior officer of the highest grade must of course be promoted to the Command.

A report has been in circulation, as I am informed that [illegible] number of Citizens resident in your part of the Coun[illegible] have [illegible]ociated themselves for the purpose of committing some lawless aggressions upon the adjacent Province of West Florida. I sincerely hope there exists no foundation for this rumour; the attempt would ruin the individuals who might engage in it, injure the reputation of the Country, and be productive of much mischief. I shall be glad to receive any information you may be able to procure upon this subject and shall calculate upon your vigilance and patriotism. Nothing I assure you sir could do more real injury to your part of the Territory than an attempt of this kind.

I am sir your Obedient
Servant

Col. James Caller
of the 6th Regt
(Signed) David Holmes

By David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory

To the Sheriff of Jefferson County.

Whereas William Snodgrass late a Member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of this Territory from the County of Jefferson, has resigned his seat.

I do therefore issue this writ authorising and directing you to hold an election conformable to law, in your County, on the twenty seventh and twenty eighth days of the present month, to fill the vacancy occasioned therein.

Given und[illegible] hand
the Seal of the Ter[illegible] at the
Town of Washi[illegible] this second
day of August in [illegible] year eighte
hundred and ten, and in the
thirty fifth year of the Independ
of the United States of America

(Seal)

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Judge Jones.

Town of Washington M T
4 Augt 1810

Sir,

Your letter of the 31 May came to han a few days ago. Conformable to the practice that has heretofore prevailed of investing persons with the authority to admini Oaths of Office: I have enclosed to Louis Winston esquire the Att ney General for Madison County, an instrument in writing from under my hand, authorizing William Dickson the Chi Justice of the Orphans Court, to administer to you the Oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and also the Oath of Office.

From the circumstance of the County Courts in this Territory not being empowered to take cognizance of criminal cases, it is very important that the Superior Cou should be held in Madison County in the 1. Mondays in October next. This induces me to request that you will have the goodness to turn y[illegible] attention [illegible] again to [illegible] subject. It [illegible] great diffidence I [illegible], that I differ with y[illegible] as to the construction that ought [illegible] be given to the act of Congress, and the Act of the Territori[illegible] relative to [illegible] case. If the spirit and intention of these laws are to govern I cannot see where the question admits of a doubt, but conscious that my opinion ought not to preponderate when in opposition to one entertained by a gentleman occupying a high Judicial station, I thought proper to consult all the Gentlemen of legal learning in this place: they were Unanimously of opinion that the court might be held on the day appointed by the act of the Territorial Legislature.

I am with great
Respect your
Obedient servant

Honble
Obadiah Jones

(Signed) David Holmes

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4 August 1810.

William Dickson of Madison County was by the Governor authorized to administer the Oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Oath of Office to Obadiah Jones, one of the Judges of the Territory appointed for the County of Madison

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From the Governor to Louis Winston Esqr.

Town of Washington 4 August 1810

Sir,

I received your letter of the 18. July by Gov. Williams. I am glad to hear that Major Neal has consented to act as an assistant in taking the census. I forward to you by the bearer two Copies of the Digest and a copy of the law respecting the Superior Courts. The Digest I wish you to distribute among the justices of the [illegible]. A greater number cannot be conveniently sent by the present opportunity. The copy of the Law respecting the Courts may be lodged in the Office for the use of those who may have occasion to peruse [illegible] thank you to forward the enclosed letter to Judge Jones, provided he is not in Madison when this gets to hand. It seems [illegible] Judge doubts whether he can legally hold a court in October next, because the act of Congreſs says that the Courts are to be holden at such times and places as the Legislature may direct. The Legislature had appointed the times and place before the act of Congreſs was paſsed; and therefore the Judge thinks that another Law on the subject is requisite. I have consulted all the Gentlemen of Law learning in this place. They entertain no doubt but that the court may be legally held in Octr next. The spirit and intention of the two acts certainly favour this construction. I hope therefore he will reconsider his opinion.

The enclosed power you will deliver to Doctr Dickson

I am Dr Sir your
Obedient servant

Louis Winston esquire

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to the U.S. Agent to the Chikasaw

Town of Washington 5 Augt 1810

Sir

I have received information that a notice has bee published by you, advertizing travellers against taking any other road in paſsing through the Indian Country except the public trace, and declaring all those who may travel by way out of the protection of the Laws of the United States. It has been suggested to me that the tenor of this advertisement holds out the idea that the Indians may punish with impunity any person who shall depart from the public trace in their journey through the coun[illegible]. If the [illegible] really conveys this idea I would advise you to re[illegible] the subject. In my opinion the Indians ought not to be [illegible] in any instance to take redress into their own hands for infractions of Law committed by White persons. I [illegible] you to forward to me a Copy of the paper in order th[illegible] may see whether the Oral information I have received is correct. In the mean time be assured sir that I have full confidence in the goodness of your intentions, and that you will cheerfully rectify any error that may have occurred from inadvertance.

I am Sir with great respect
Your obedient servant

J. Neely Esqr.
U.S. Agent to the
Chikasaws.

(Signed) David Holmes

From the Governor to Judge Toulmin
Town of Washington 9th Augt. 1810

Dear Sir,

I received this morning your letter of the 28th Ultimo with the Memorandum it enveloped. My concern is excited for the delusion under which certain persons in your part of the Territory appear to labour.

The present state of affairs in West Florida and the situation of the United States relative thereto un-questionably occupy at this moment the serious and attent-ive consideration of our government. Consequently an attempt at this time by any of our Citizens to commit aggressions upon the Province might be productive of much injury to the good people of this Territory, especially to those who are interested in the Provinces of the settlements on the waters of the Mobile.

I entreat you therefore to impress on the public mind the danger that would at[illegible] (as you seem to think) may be in [illegible] the individuals who might be so [illegible] it, but to the best interests of the [illegible] the Country.

I am [illegible] respect[illegible]
Your obedient Servant

Honble. H. Toulmin.

(Signed) David Holmes

P.S.

Your letter covering one from the Commandant at Pensacola to Col. Sparks was received here a few days after the direct mail to Tombigbee left this place.

D. H.

By David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

To the Sheriff Wilkinson County.

Whereas John Nugent late a Member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of this Territory from the County of Wilkinson has resigned his seat I do therefore issue this writ authorizing and directing you to hold an election conformable to law in your County on the tenth and eleventh days of September next to fill the vacancy occasioned thereby.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at the Town of Washington, this eleventh day of August, in the year eighteen hundred and ten, and in the thirty fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America. (Signed) David Holmes

(Seal)

[illegible] of two hundred

[illegible] against William M. Byrn

[illegible] held for the County of Adams

[illegible] committed upon the body,

[illegible] Now know ye that for certain causes

[illegible] hereby remit and release, one hundred and twenty dollars of said fine of two hundred and twenty dollars

Given under my hand and
the seal of the Territory this
24th day August 1810.

Seal

(Signed) David Holmes

Head Quarters
Town of Washington M.T.
Augt. 24. 1810.

General Orders.

It is ordered that the Regimental musters of the militia of the Territory be held on the days and at the places herein mentioned.

The first Regiment will muster on the first wednesday in October next at the Town of Liberty.

The second Regiment on the Saturday following at Percy's Plantation.

The third Regiment on the second tuesday in October at the Town of Washington.

The fourth Regiment on the friday following [illegible] fort [illegible] ys gu [illegible]

The fo[illegible] in [illegible]
October next at [illegible]

The fifth Regiment on the [illegible]
Port.

The tenth Regiment will muster [illegible] monday in October next at Warrenton.

The sixth Regiment will muster on monday the [illegible] October at such convenient place in the County of Washington as the Commandant of the Regiment shall order.

The eighth Regiment will muster on thursday the twenty fifth day of October at such convenient Place in the County of Baldwin as the Commandant of that Regiment shall order.

The ninth Regiment will muster on monday the twenty ninth day of October at such convenient Place in the County of Wayne as the Commandant of the Regiment shall order.

The seventh Regiment will muster on the twenty ninth day of October at Twickenham

(Signed) David Holmes
Commander in Chief of the Militia
of the Mississippi Territory

Finished copying this book Aug. 22, 1915
M. L. Shelton.

Finished typewritten copy of this book
on August 22, 1918
Maria L. Shelton.